

MONITORING



NIRB Public Guide
Series: STAGE 3

Participate in Monitoring programs
to help manage project impacts



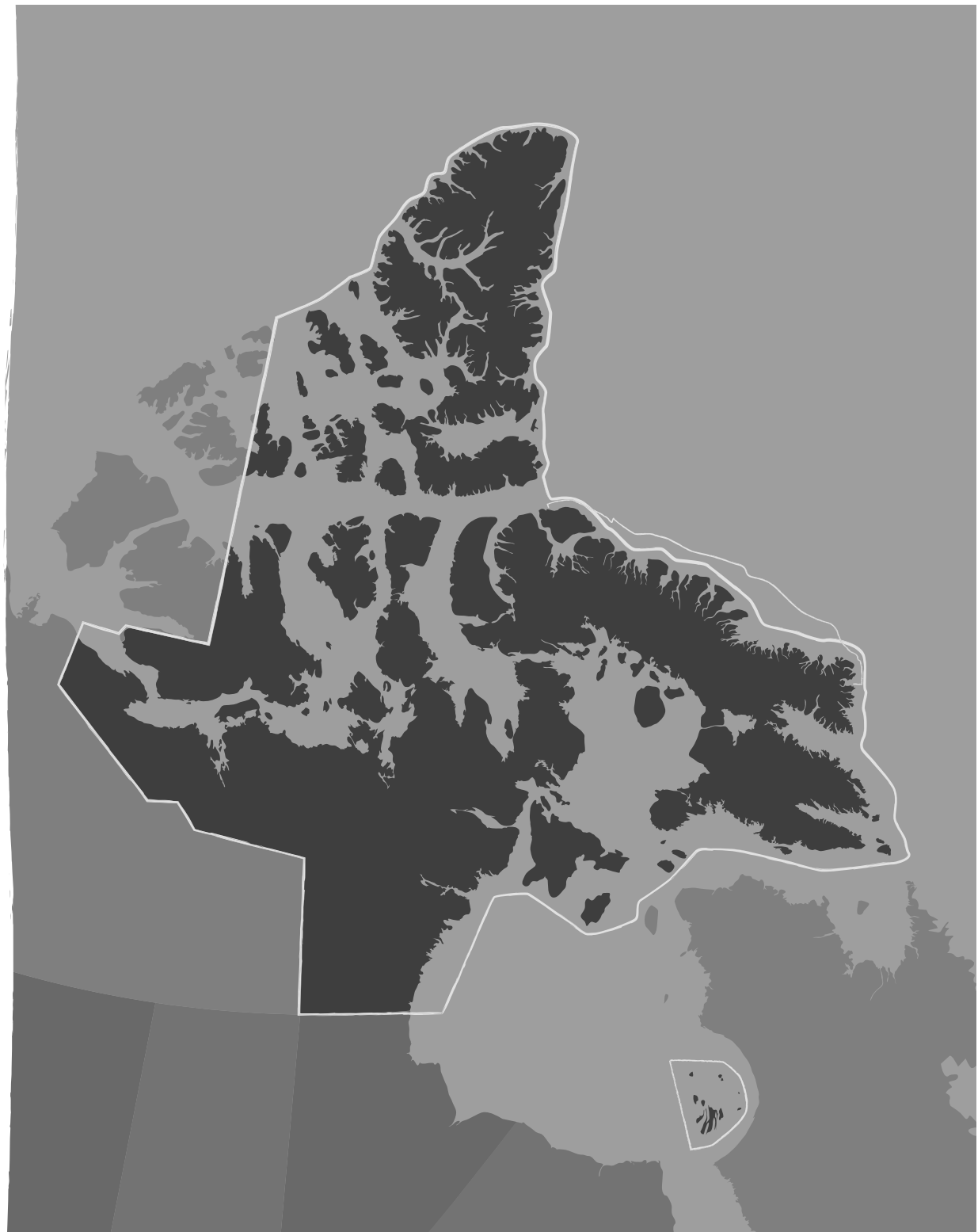
NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD MISSION:

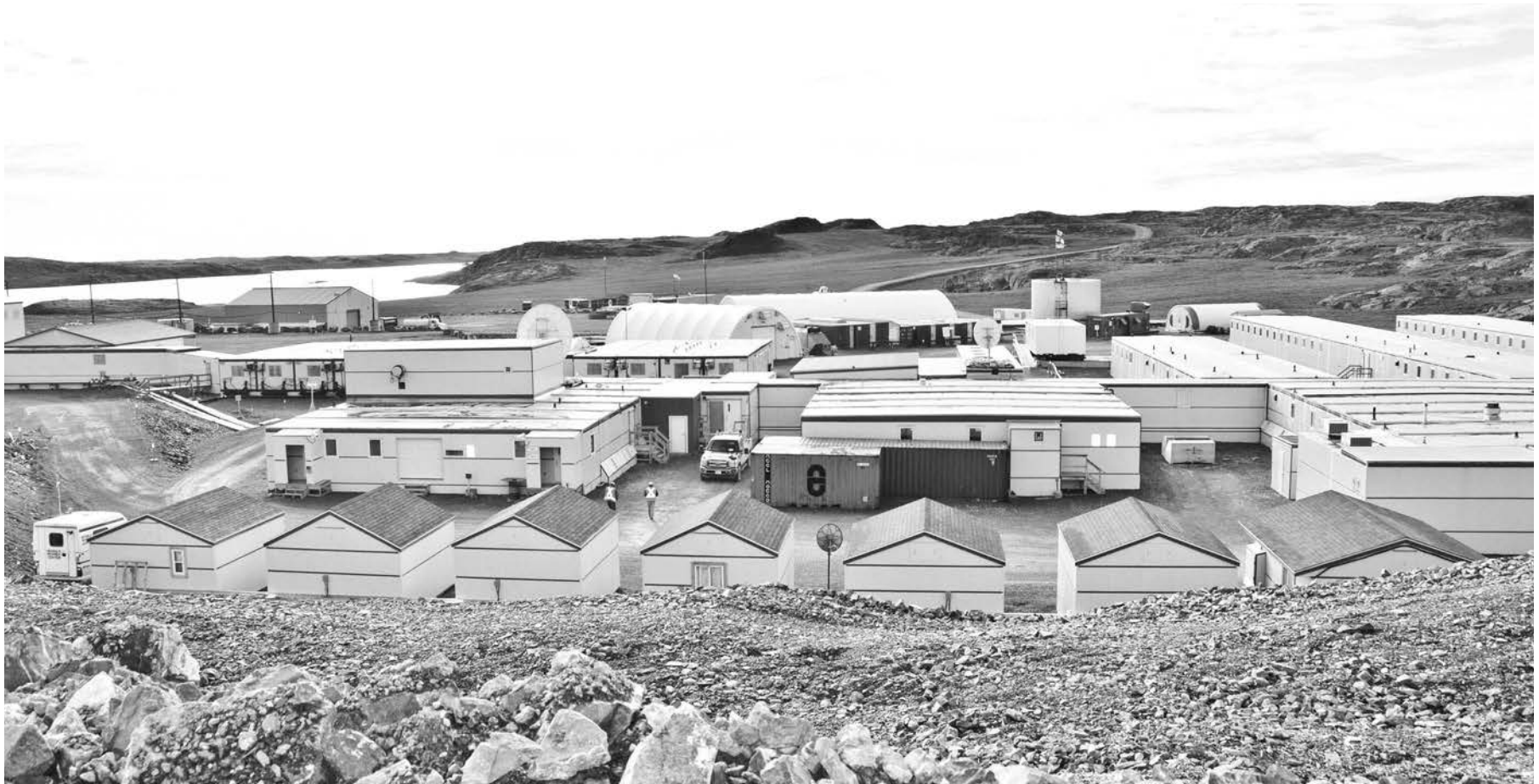
To protect and promote the well-being
of the environment and Nunavummiut
through the impact assessment process.

Cover Photo:
Meadowbank Gold Mine
Photo: Sophia Granchinho

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Doris North mine site Photo: Glenn Sorensen

MONITORING PROGRAMS

The project proponent, the NIRB and authorizing agencies work together to monitor the effects of approved projects to ensure the environment and Nunavummiut are protected. Many of these details of the Monitoring program are developed during the earlier Screening and Review stages of the NIRB process. Monitoring – the final stage – keeps track of the environmental and socio-economic impacts of a project for the life of the project, including after the project is closed.

Learn how you can follow the impacts of a project, and what you can do to help ensure projects benefit Nunavut while reducing and preventing negative impacts.

INSIDE:

- Overview of the Monitoring process 2
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OVERVIEW OF THE MONITORING PROCESS

APPROVED PROJECTS REQUIRE MONITORING

The NIRB can require a project to have a specific Monitoring program. A Monitoring program may be very large and have many requirements, or may be small with few requirements, depending on the size and expected impacts of a project.

A Monitoring program keeps track of environmental and socio-economic effects of a project to see if management plans are working or if any unexpected effects are occurring, called 'Effects Monitoring'. Projects are also monitored to make sure proponents follow the terms conditions of the licences, decisions, and certificates issued by authorizing agencies, called 'Compliance Monitoring'.

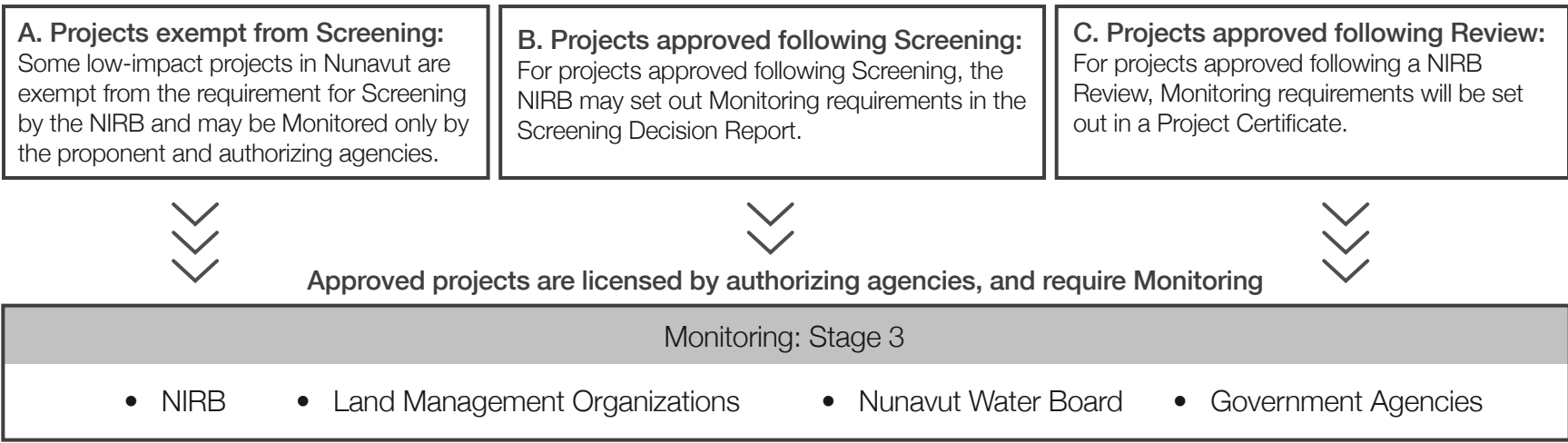
Monitoring ensures that projects are carried out responsibly, with problems identified early and changes or adjustments made as needed.

NIRB MANAGES PROJECT-SPECIFIC MONITORING

The NIRB manages project-specific Monitoring, designed for individual projects. Every approved Nunavut project is Monitored in some form, whether the project is:

- a) Exempt from Screening;
- b) Approved following the NIRB Screening; or
- c) Approved following the NIRB Review.

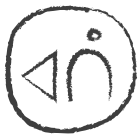
All Monitoring requirements will be incorporated into the licences, permits and approvals issued by authorizing agencies for the project. Monitoring plans and reports for projects screened or reviewed by the NIRB can be accessed from the NIRB's public registry at <ftp.nirb.ca>.



EVERYONE PLAYS A ROLE IN MONITORING - INCLUDING YOU

The project proponent must measure and report on the impacts of a project, and make sure all the licensing conditions are followed, as directed by the NIRB and the various authorizing agencies.

If you live in a community or region with a project that affects you, you are encouraged to stay informed and participate through the NIRB's Monitoring programs. Read on to find out how to get involved.



Look for the Atii icon in each of the guides showing you how to participate.



Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

"The purpose of a monitoring programshall be to;

- *measure the relevant effects of projects on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environments of the Nunavut Settlement Area;*
- *to determine whether and to what extent the land or resource use in question is carried out within the predetermined terms and conditions;*
- *to provide the information necessary for agencies to enforce terms and conditions of land or resource use approvals; and*
- *to assess the accuracy of predictions contained in the project impact statements."* (s.12.7.2)



Cambridge Bay Photo: Li Wan

GENERAL MONITORING

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) carries out general monitoring under the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan using data provided by industry and government. NPC measures the impact of all activities combined, to report on the overall health of Nunavut's environment.

THE NIRB STAFF'S MONITORING ACTIVITIES

1. Advise the proponent to prepare and submit regular reports.
2. Collect and review information from the proponent and authorizing agencies, which may include site visits for larger projects.
3. Report annually to the Board and provide recommendations to the Board on follow-up action if required.
4. Ensure that any recommendations made by the Board regarding the Monitoring program are provided to the proponent in a timely fashion.
5. Ensure any project certificate-specific requirements are followed and impacts are managed responsibly.

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO MONITOR PROJECT IMPACT

NIRB'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOCUS ON COORDINATION

The NIRB acts as a coordinator of the Monitoring process, so every group knows who is responsible for which aspect of a Monitoring program, and duplication of reporting is avoided.

A small project may only be required to submit an annual report, which the NIRB files on its public registry, and distributes to the appropriate groups. Large projects may require a wide range of reporting in addition to an annual report, including regular site visits and community updates. For very large projects, the NIRB may designate a Monitoring Officer to ensure the Monitoring plan is followed.

Whether a project is large or small, the NIRB staff ensures project Monitoring information is distributed between the Board, the proponent, authorizing agencies and the affected communities. The Board evaluates a project proponent's reports and produces recommendations to the proponent for follow up as required.



*The NIRB Board in Arviat, Henry Ohokannoak, Guy Alikut, Joe Ohokannoak, Phillip Kadlun, Elizabeth Copland, Jaypootie Aliqatuqtuq, Allen Maghagak
Photo: Amanda Hanson*

PROPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Proponent is required to track, create and submit various Monitoring reports. Examples of reports include:

- Annual report to the NIRB, every year the project is in operation and during the post-closure phase;
- Specific Monitoring plans according to commitments made in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and/or the Final Hearing;
- Copies of all authorizations obtained for the project as they are received;
- Any project certificate-specific requirements;
- Reports on implementing other required Monitoring programs, such as participation in government caribou collaring programs.

AUTHORIZING AGENCIES RESPONSIBILITIES

Authorizing agencies are responsible for issuing licences, permits or approvals for a project once it has passed Screening or Review by the NIRB. These agencies (such as Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development and the Nunavut Water Board) provide the necessary authorizations for the project to start. They continue to Monitor the project and provide additional authorizations as required.

Each authorizing agency involved submits a Compliance Monitoring report to the NIRB, showing if the project is in compliance with the permits and authorizations they issued.

MINE MEETS OBLIGATIONS

As part of its requirements under Condition 32 of the NIRB's Project Certificate (# 004) for the Meadowbank Gold Project, the proponent, Agnico Eagle, is required to report any accidents or other safety incidents on the all-weather private access road between the Meadowbank mine site and the hamlet of Baker Lake.

Agnico Eagle has kept track of any fuel spills or accidents that have occurred at the mine site or along the access road. They have reported these spills immediately to the Government of Nunavut, the Kivalliq Inuit Association, the Hamlet, and to the NIRB annually.

(NIRB 2011-2012 Annual Monitoring Report for Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.'s Meadowbank Gold Project, p. 24, 2012.)



*Fuel spill clean up along access road
Photo: Sophia Granchinho 2011*

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN MONITORING

NIRB MAKES ALL INFORMATION PUBLIC

The NIRB works to make sure every person, agency, Designated Inuit Organization or local group who wants to receive information about approved projects is able to easily access the Monitoring reports.

The information the NIRB collects from proponents and authorizing agencies is used by organizations responsible for protecting the environment and ensuring the public benefit from projects in Nunavut. The Monitoring reports may also be used by agencies to enforce terms and conditions of land or resource use approvals.

See www.nirb.ca, and select “Monitoring” to access reports and other information for ongoing monitoring programs. You can also request to be added to the NIRB’s email distribution lists to receive regular monitoring updates for ongoing major development projects by emailing info@nirb.ca.



Monitoring reports are posted at [ftp.nirb.ca](ftp://ftp.nirb.ca) for public access



INFORMATION DESIGNED FOR YOU

As a person living in Nunavut, the NIRB wants to hear from you on projects that are underway – especially if you have any concerns or questions about the impacts of a project. The NIRB pays particular attention to ensuring Inuit have access to all Monitoring reports, and welcomes community input.

- For large projects, the NIRB conducts community information sessions with affected communities.
- NIRB issues annual reports in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun so you can easily find out more about the monitoring programs for many projects across Nunavut.
- The NIRB requires some proponents to hold regular community meetings to assess impacts as part of their Monitoring program.
- Many larger projects are required to create executive summaries of their reports in English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

WHAT IMPACTS DO YOU CARE ABOUT?

If you were an active participant in the Screening and Review process, you put a lot of time and energy into helping the proponent and the NIRB understand what is important to you and your family, so the project would be carried out in a way that supported your community's needs.

Monitoring programs help provide the information needed so you can follow and see if the results match your expectations and observations. For example:

- how many jobs were created – can you see the impact in your community from these jobs?
- results of wildlife monitoring programs – can you see impacts to local wildlife habitat, behaviour or abundance?
- environmental impacts - can you see any impacts you were not expecting?



*NIRB community meeting, Taloyoak
Photo: Sophia Granchinho*

FOLLOW A PROJECT'S IMPACTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY



- * read Monitoring summaries online at <ftp.nirb.ca>, select "Monitoring"
- * read the NIRB's Annual Reports, distributed to your local HTO and Hamlet
- * ask to be added to the NIRB distribution list to receive Monitoring reports by email, by emailing info@nirb.ca
- * attend community consultations held by the NIRB and by proponents
- * attend the NIRB's open houses
- * ask the NIRB questions if something seems out of place to you. Call or email the NIRB staff anytime



COMMUNITY REQUEST TRIGGERS HEARING

When AEM's Meadowbank Gold Mine first opened, a private, controlled road linked the mine site to Baker Lake, as required in condition 32 of the 2006 Project Certificate.

During Monitoring, community members requested use of the road. A new NIRB hearing was held to discuss the issue. As a result, condition 32 was amended to allow "...non-mine use of the road to authorized, safe and controlled use by all-terrain vehicles for the purpose of carrying out traditional Inuit activities." Today, Baker Lake residents have use of the road, managed by Meadowbank according to the amended Project Certificate.



Meadowbank Gold Mine, Gatehouse on Controlled Road Photo: Sophia Granchinho

MONITORING PROTECTS NUNAVUT'S FUTURE

DEALING WITH THE UNEXPECTED

You have an important role to help identify when things are not going as planned. After all, some projects in Nunavut will last for a generation or more, and while everyone works hard to predict every impact – both positive and negative, sometimes unexpected impacts will occur.

FLEXIBILITY LEADING TO IMPROVED MONITORING PROGRAMS

The NIRB's Monitoring requirements are to be met by the proponent using the most appropriate method. Methods of monitoring may change over time, as long as the terms and conditions are met. This provides flexibility for the proponent and authorizing agencies to improve Monitoring processes to meet the objectives as effectively as possible.

WHEN INPUT TRIGGERS ANOTHER HEARING

In some cases interested parties, the proponents and/or community members wish to change the terms and conditions originally issued for reasons they bring to the NIRB. In this case a NIRB hearing may be held to gather all input, and the Board may determine that changes to the terms and conditions in the Project Certificate are necessary.



Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

"NIRB may on its own account or upon application by a DIO, the proponent or other interests, reconsider the terms and conditions contained in the NIRB project certificate if it is established that the terms and conditions are not achieving their purpose." (s.12.8.2(a))

YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN NUNAVUT'S FUTURE

The NIRB, proponents, and authorizing agencies need your input throughout the life of a project to ensure that the Monitoring program works as effectively as possible.

Your knowledge of the land, the wildlife, and the people of your region can help to ensure the environment is protected. Your ongoing involvement will help Nunavummiut benefit from development in Nunavut for years to come.

How do you plan to stay involved?



Bernice Kapolak and friend at Umingmaktok Photo: Rob Harmer



Photo: Li Wan

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NIRB TECHNICAL GUIDES:

- * Proponent's Guide
- * Authorizing Agencies Guide
- * NIRB Rules of Procedure
- * Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines
- * Terminology and Definitions