



# 2025 Pan Territorial Board Forum

Final Report

PREPARED FOR

Pan-Territorial Board Forum

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## BACKGROUND

Since 2014, the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency's (CanNor) Northern Project Management Office (NPMO) has hosted the annual Pan-Territorial Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Board Forum (the Forum). The Forum brings together representatives of each of the Assessment and Licencing Boards across the Yukon (YT), Northwest Territories (NWT), and Nunavut (NU) with the aim of facilitating discussion on initiatives and matters of common interest.

**TABLE 1: PARTICIPATING BOARDS IN THE 2024/25 PTBF**

Region	Assessment Boards	Licencing Boards
<b>Yukon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yukon Water Board (YWB)</li> </ul>
<b>Mackenzie Valley</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board (WLWB)</li> <li>*Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)</li> <li>*Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB)</li> <li>*Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB)</li> </ul>
<b>Inuvialuit Settlement Region</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Impact Steering Committee (EISC)</li> <li>Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB)</li> </ul>
<b>Nunavut</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nunavut Water Board (NWB)</li> </ul>

*\*Land and Water Boards (LWBs) in the Mackenzie Valley conduct preliminary screenings, which are part of the environmental impact assessment process under Part 5 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA).*

The **objectives** of the annual Forum are to:

- Discuss and understand the key challenges with regulatory and environmental assessment boards operating in the three territories;
- Share best practices and success stories with respect to common operational challenges;
- Provide an opportunity for building relationships between the Boards that will allow for ongoing support and information sharing; and,
- Identify possible opportunities to collaborate on operational policies, processes and guidelines and develop more consistent approaches, as appropriate.

## INTRODUCTION

The 2024-2025 Forum was hosted in October 2024 at the Sternwheeler Hotel, in Whitehorse, Yukon. Over thirty participants from seven Boards participated (see Appendix A for list of participants). The Forum's Steering Committee – in collaboration with the meeting facilitators – guided the development of the Forum's final agenda (see Appendix B for the Forum agenda).

The Forum included presentations, plenary discussions, and small breakout groups to enable sharing across Boards. A discussion on Consultation processes was held on the second day with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) (with representatives from the Northern Affairs Organization (NAO) and Consultation and Accommodation Unit (CAU)) and the Northern Projects Management Office (NPMO) within the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor). Actions and follow-ups generated during regional discussions between the Boards and different groups within the Government of Canada (GoC) are tabled in Appendix C. ATRIS System Q&A are tabled in Appendix D. Appendix E includes presentations shared during the Forum.

The Forum began with a welcome from Kent Bretzlaff, Executive Director for YESAB, the host organization for the 2024-2025 Forum. Kwanlin Dün First Nation Elder, Margaret MacKay, led opening and closing prayers.

This report summarizes the rich discussions held over the 2.5 days of the Forum, capturing the main themes, questions, and opportunities for follow-up.

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### BOARD UPDATES

As in previous years, Boards shared updates on initiatives they are implementing, focusing on community participation in Board processes, organizational effectiveness and/or other highlights or initiatives advanced since the 2023/24 PTBF. Each Board delivered a short update (Board presentations included in Appendix E). We noted the following key themes across presentations.

- **Boards are focusing on strategic and operational initiatives to adapt to changing contexts and new opportunities.** Changing contexts include:
  - Critical minerals and infrastructure development are creating a new wave of activity for Boards.
  - Continued response and changes from the impacts of COVID-19.
  - Leveraging significant technological advancements including Starlink, automation, website/registry updates, online review system, regulatory pathway tool, use of social media, videos, cloud-based software for data/file storage and management and testing simultaneous interpretation software.
 Initiatives Boards are implementing in response to these changes include:
  - Implementing strategic plans to guide their operations.
  - Initiatives underway to enhance effectiveness, efficiency, and accessibility, such as internal organizational and legislative reviews and modernizing records-management.
  - Shifting delivery models, such as transitioning from a regional approach to a centralized model or moving from a centralized approach to a regional model.
- **Boards are building organizational effectiveness through advances in structure, inclusion, and onboarding initiatives.** Some of these initiatives include:

- Implementing new organizational frameworks.
- Recognizing the need for HR Managers with the growing size of organizations.
- Creating shared positions to support Board operational activities, such as HR, ATIP, and finance positions.
- Revising HR policies to accommodate more inclusive and accessible work environments, such as updated parental leave policies and hybrid work models.
- Prioritizing and enhancing Board and staff orientation and training, including the use of videos.
- Incorporating various initiatives to promote team cohesion and inclusion, including: staff retreats to develop a Team Charter; incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (IQ) into daily work practices; and cross-cultural training programs.
- **Boards are advancing efforts on outreach and engagement to enhance Indigenous and community participation in processes.** Some of these initiatives include:
  - Establishing key roles to support engagement, including Engagement Manager roles, Community Liaisons, and Cultural Coordinators.
  - Creating internship and summer student positions to foster community involvement in Board processes.
  - Increasing the visibility of Board members, such as through video biographies of Board members available on websites and in two languages.
  - Adopting a more holistic approach to integrating language, culture, and Indigenous Knowledge into the work of the Boards, such as through terminology workshops and collaborating with interpreters.
  - Prioritizing community engagement through various initiatives, including pop-up engagement activities during community visits, holding community meetings and/or participation in meetings organized by the community.
  - Establishing secondary hubs in different communities to facilitate participation in proceedings without the need for travel.
  - Offering Indigenous language classes for staff and promoting various inclusion initiatives, such as incorporating IQ within everyday work life.
- **Boards are undergoing updates to procedures, guidelines, and resources to support meaningful engagement and procedural fairness.** Some of these initiatives include:
  - Updating rules of procedure to reflect the current context, emphasizing the critical importance of procedural fairness.
  - Updating guidelines, including as they relate to engagement, Indigenous Knowledge, and compensation. In addition, Boards are integrating notable practices into these updates such as a public- and IQ-informed reviews of guidelines and pilot testing.
  - Using reference bulletins to provide clarity on interpretation of legislation and policies, and supporting collaboration and participation of other organizations, including regulators and Indigenous governments in Board processes.

## PRIVACY AND INFORMATION COLLECTION

Boards identified an interest in learning from one another on approaches to complying with Federal privacy and information collection requirements, including those established under the *Privacy Act* and *Access to Information Act* (and associated Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) requirements). The purpose of this session was to share how different Boards go about meeting the evolving requirements for compliance and reporting under these pieces of federal legislation, including identifying training and/or capacity needs to comply.

**Key takeaways from the discussion of privacy and information collection include:**

- **Ensuring proper management and compliance with reporting and records disposal under Library Record Archives:** One Board identified challenges with completing all required reporting, including internally developing monthly proactive disclosure reporting forms in consultation with the Secretariat as well as 2023/24 annual reports. Another Board identified that under Section 12 of the Library Records Archives, records cannot be disposed of without approval. This process is managed separately from the Privacy Information Commissioner.
- **Establishing a system to manage records effectively and ensure compliance with the *Privacy Act* and *Access to Information Act*:** Boards highlighted the need for effective records management. One Board has established a classification system for determining which records must be retained. Effective records management is crucial to ensure that valuable records are maintained. It was emphasized that without effective information management tools, private or sensitive information can inadvertently be released, and a review process is necessary to conduct QA/QC of outgoing documents to ensure compliance with the *Privacy Act* and ATIP requirements. Boards also emphasized the importance of appropriate classification/tagging of documents, educating staff on communication practices and document management in light of these requirements. One Board additionally mentioned their policy is to implement a 90-Day retention policy for chats and their guidance is to ensure decision-making related discussions are conducted over email and properly managed. Boards highlighted the need for capacity to respond to these requirements and practices.
- **Developing consistent staff onboarding and technical support to enhance organizational effectiveness on documentation standards and *Privacy Act* requirements:** One Board identified challenges with onboarding employees given a lack of clarity on documentation maintenance and standards expectations (e.g., as it relates to files, emails, chats, etc.). Another Board shared that they use SharePoint for general file sharing among staff and a server for master records that are restricted to certain individuals and cannot be altered.
- **Accessing Canada School of Public Service resources and training:** One Board identified the benefits of access to the Canada School of Public Service training opportunities, including resources, information sessions, and training documents. Access to these resources has not been offered as membership in the public service is required to access them.

The following items were identified as potential areas for ongoing collaboration between the Boards:

- **Developing a joint statement to the Government of Canada requesting support to meet federal privacy and information collection requirements:** Boards highlighted the challenges they have experienced in accessing federal privacy and information guidance and training, including consistently changing federal contacts, lack of access to training and guidance for Board staff, and lack of personal information banks (PIB), which is a resource for government-collected personal information. Boards discussed the action of developing a joint statement to the federal government to address these barriers and to highlight their distinct operational capacities and purposes.
- **NPMO to inquire about a single window for administrative tribunals within the Government of Canada:** Boards sought clarity on whether there is a 'single window' with responsibility for coordinating with administrative tribunals within the federal government. Boards asked this question to find solutions to ease their administrative burdens. NPMO committed to following up with their ATIP coordinator to seek clarity on this question.

## LESSONS LEARNED: PROCEEDINGS

Most northern Board processes include requirements for public hearings or panel processes. YESAB is currently preparing for its first project to undergo a Panel Review. A Panel Review is the highest level of environmental and socio-economic assessment in the Yukon and the only level of assessment that requires a public hearing. This session was an opportunity to share lessons learned to inform ongoing process improvements and to inform YESAB's first public hearings.

YESAB kicked off the discussion by putting forward the following inquiries for discussion:

- **Collaborative development of key documents:** How do Boards engage key stakeholders in advance of proceedings, while maintaining procedural fairness?
- **Increasing accessibility of public hearings:** How do Boards enhance accessibility within processes that may be intimidating for some participants?
- **Upholding procedural fairness:** How do Boards maintain procedural fairness while enhancing accessibility?

To support learning, the NIRB, LWBs, and MVEIRB shared lessons from their own processes. These include:

- **Tailoring approaches to communities:** Boards highlighted the importance of casting the net wide for participation, but tailoring processes to the specific communities involved, recognizing that each community has unique contexts, protocols and needs. MVEIRB shared that they are building comprehensive guidance of community-specific protocols to support them in taking community-specific approaches to proceedings. The NIRB shared that their processes are informed by IQ, include opportunities to share oral testimony and that participants can participate in the language of their choice. These practices enhance accessibility and community participation.

- **Ensuring community participation at every step:** Boards identified the importance of ensuring that communities are engaged frequently throughout proceedings. They also highlighted the importance of engaging to inform development of key documents, such as guidance document development that would set the tone for proceedings (rather than proceeding specific documents). MVEIRB identified the importance of Board members and staff interacting with communities directly as often as possible throughout the process to share information and create opportunities for learning.
- **Creating a culturally safe public hearing:** Emphasis was placed on creating a culturally informed space by thoughtfully considering the hearing format, for example by including culturally appropriate openings and closing (e.g., drummers), holding hearings in a circle, and considering factors like timing (i.e., to ensure all segments of the community, including youth and Elders, have the option to participate) and providing culturally-appropriate foods. A Board highlighted the use of 'open mic time' to create space for participants to share thoughts outside of the formal agenda and/or topic of discussion.
- **Enhancing accessibility of language:** Language, both in terms of using plain language and effective translations/interpretation, were highlighted by Boards as key for supporting meaningful participation in proceedings. NIRB and MVEIRB both shared their practice of working with interpreters to identify/develop appropriate terms for technical words (e.g., tailings ponds) and to validate those with communities to ensure understanding. The LWBs emphasized the need to provide guidance to participants to speak slowly and clearly and to avoid the use of acronyms to enable effective interpretation.

#### Key takeaways from the discussion include:

- ➔ **Enhancing accessibility while maintaining procedural fairness:** Boards spoke to practices for enhancing meaningful participation and accessibility, while maintaining procedural fairness. They emphasized the need to follow Rules of Procedure, but also to review and update these regularly to reflect evolutions in context.
- ➔ **Implementing strategies to combat participant fatigue and maintain engagement during public hearings:** Incorporating frequent breaks, providing food, and thinking creatively (e.g., providing fidget objects) were identified as ways to combat participant fatigue during hearings. Boards emphasized the need for adaptability and to plan agendas to respond to audience's needs, balancing activities to combat fatigue, and planning flexibility into proceedings in advance (e.g., planning for 2-day hearings in case more breaks were needed).
- ➔ **Enhancing the well-being and comfort of Board members and participants for more inclusive public hearings:** Boards identified practices they have implemented to support Board member well-being during long hearing days. These include providing separate rooms for Board members to decompress during breaks, having comfortable seating for Board members, and ensuring community member supports are available to assist in managing the room.
- ➔ **Managing Elder participation and ensuring effective communication during public hearings:** Boards shared practices for managing Elder participation during hearings, including having community leaders speak first to guide Elders by asking

specific questions, preparing Elders in advance on the scope of the discussions, and incorporating content from preparation discussions into presentations shared during meetings. Informal 'open mic' time at the end of hearing was also suggested to enable broader community participation to support greater focus throughout the hearing, respecting cultural protocols, and ensuring all voices are heard.

## LESSONS LEARNED: DEVOLUTION

On January 18, 2024, the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement was signed between the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Devolution will allow Nunavummiut to make decisions on how public lands and resources are used and developed. As the Yukon underwent devolution in 2003 and the Northwest Territories underwent devolution in 2014, this session was an opportunity to share lessons and to learn across jurisdictions.

The NIRB and the NWB began the discussion by sharing challenges and questions they are facing regarding devolution. These include:

- **Clarifying processes ahead of devolution:** Nunavut Boards shared questions regarding steps to take in advance of devolution to ensure that the process is clear and transparent and that all levels of government are engaged and have clarity on roles and responsibilities post-devolution (e.g., as it relates to delegation instruments). Yukon and NWT Boards shared their experiences with devolution. NWT shared complexity due to delegation of authority, not devolution between the federal and territorial governments, which has implications on their processes (e.g., separate water licences for different federal and non-federal areas). Both Yukon and NWT Boards shared the need for collaboration and clear communication ahead of devolution to identify these potential challenges and clarify processes to increase efficiency and effectiveness post-devolution.
- **Timeline for legislative amendments:** Nunavut Boards shared their questions on timelines for legislative amendments. NWT Boards emphasized the importance of Boards obtaining intent documents from governments to understand the rationale behind actions negotiated during devolution, as this information may be lost over time.

### Key takeaways from the discussion include:

- ➔ **Supporting Indigenous participation in decision-making during devolution:** Boards highlighted the impacts of devolution on Indigenous communities. For example, YESAB shared that the devolution process happened in parallel to Yukon First Nations negotiations of comprehensive land claim agreements and self-governing agreements, but they were not made aware of the devolution discussions. This lack of coordination between land claim negotiations and devolution has had implications on assessment processes, for example, in determining decision-bodies (as the test for establishing decision bodies relates to whether a project is located wholly or partly on settlement land rather than granting Yukon First Nations decision making authorities for all projects). Boards emphasized the importance of reflecting principles of reconciliation in devolution discussions.
- ➔ **Engaging with different governments to better manage legislative changes during devolution:** MVEIRB shared their experience that many legislative changes

were proposed / occurred simultaneously with devolution, highlighting the need for Boards to engage with different levels of governments to share information about their processes and origin.

## PAN-NORTHERN PUBLIC REGISTRY

Boards are exploring the idea of a single window pan-northern public registry or the opportunity to integrate registries across jurisdictions to support the assessment and permitting of transboundary projects or projects with transboundary impacts. The purpose of this session was to learn more about the Online Review System (ORS) as well as other tools used by Boards in the Mackenzie Valley and to discuss potential for application of similar tools across northern Boards. To support learning from one another, the MVEIRB and LWBs shared demonstrations of their ORS and communication tools and platforms.

### Key takeaways from the discussion include:

- ➔ Simplifying processes to ensure a user-friendly experience is key to effective participation.
- ➔ Utilizing digital platforms to explain processes in plain language and translate into Indigenous languages, to enhance inclusivity and accessibility of the process will support Board processes.

The following table highlights key aspects of MVEIRB and LWBs ORS and communication platforms and tools.

**TABLE 2: ONLINE REVIEW SYSTEM AND COMMUNICATION TOOL HIGHLIGHTS**

Tool	Highlights
Online Review System (ORS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lists ongoing reviews, allowing public searches and updates in real time for transparency.</li> <li>• Supports direct communication across parties, enhancing relationship building between the public and proponents.</li> <li>• Provides comprehensive information for each step of the process. Work underway to integrate the public registry with the ORS.</li> <li>• Designed to be user friendly and maintainable.</li> </ul>
MVEIRB Regulatory Road map web platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive resource for all stages of resource development in the Mackenzie Valley.</li> <li>• Interactive tool, guiding users through processes based on specific requirements and legislation (planning to integrate land tenure and other systems in near future).</li> <li>• User friendly, story-like scenarios.</li> <li>• Ability to map different project pathways and standardize approaches for different pathways.</li> </ul>
MVEIRB Communications Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes translations into five Indigenous languages</li> </ul>

Tool	Highlights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using YouTube and other platforms to share Board processes in plain language. Communications are translated into Indigenous languages</li> <li>• Engaging stakeholders and focus groups to improve user experience</li> </ul>

The following item was identified as a potential area for ongoing collaboration between the Boards:

- **Interest in exploring creation of a pan-territorial online review system:** The LWBs suggested the three territories could integrate their public registries with the ORS, creating a single access point for all information across Boards. NPMO highlighted the system's value for project tracking and noted the timeliness of discussions. NPMO committed to leveraging their convening role within the Government of Canada to investigate and explore government partnerships and potential funding opportunities to assist in further development and implementation of a pan-territorial ORS system.

## CONSULTATION PROCESSES

Northern regulatory frameworks have been designed to include public participation in project decision-making, permitting and licencing, enabling people to participate in decisions that affect them. All Boards have requirements to conduct consultation as part of their administrative processes, and like other parties, many undertake a range of other engagement activities. The Government of Canada (and in most cases Territorial governments) have a duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous groups when it considers conduct that might adversely impact potential or established Indigenous or Treaty rights. In northern regulatory frameworks, the duty to consult and accommodate applies to a range of activities including major project approvals, issuance of licences and permits as well as other activities. The Government of Canada's Crown Consultation processes were discussed at the previous PTBF and led to many questions from Board participants.

The purpose of the session at the 2024-2025 Forum was to enable constructive two-way dialogue that allowed Boards and the Government of Canada to continue to learn from each other about their respective consultation processes in the spirit of supporting meaningful engagement and continuous improvement.

The conversation began with small group discussions to define meaningful engagement. Participants noted the following ideas in defining meaningful engagement:

- **Context matters:** Participants discussed the importance of identifying and developing community-specific approaches for engagement informed by local preferences and practices, recognizing that communities may have established their own protocols or policies on consultation. Participants also highlighted that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to meaningful engagement.
- **Engage early:** Early engagement to build relationships and understanding of projects or processes ahead of formal processes and proceedings enables relationship building over time.

- **Build relationships based on respect and reciprocity:** Participants highlighted the importance of establishing relationships before engagement, emphasizing the need for deep listening, for Boards and the GoC to be aware of limitations of their processes, ensuring communities are aware of what mitigations can be scoped into the process, and providing clarity around roles. Doing so enhances transparency and ensures that communities feel valued and not just a part of a transactional or formal process.
- **Create safe spaces for all voices:** Participants discussed the need to ensure everyone’s voice can be heard by creating safe spaces where all individuals feel comfortable expressing themselves. Attention to dynamics within small communities is important – as not everyone may feel comfortable speaking up with differing opinions unless space is created to do so safely.
- **Ensure communities have capacity to engage meaningfully:** Effective engagement requires communities to have capacity to participate meaningfully. Participants highlighted the need for participant funding and resources to support capacity for participation as well as ongoing capacity-building.
- **Be flexible and adaptable:** Participants highlighted the importance of building flexibility and adaptability into planning for engagement, as community circumstances may change quickly (e.g., need to reschedule due to an event in the community).
- **Maintain effective communication:** Clear communication is important to ensure clarity around resource allocation and boundaries.
- **Create processes for validating information:** Ensure follow up is conducted following engagement activities to ensure information was captured as intended.

Following this discussion, NPMO, CIRNAC NAO, and CIRNAC CAU presented on Crown consultation (slides included in Appendix E). The purpose of the presentation was to clarify the Federal government’s obligations for Crown Consultation, highlighting the various roles and responsibilities of different federal departments with responsibilities for Crown Consultation (see table below which summarizes the roles and responsibilities of NPMO, NAO, CAU, as well as individual federal departments operating in the North).

**TABLE 3: FEDERAL DEPARTMENT ROLES AND OBLIGATIONS FOR CROWN CONSULTATION**

Federal Department	Role
<b>CIRNAC, CAU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leads Federal whole of government approach to federal Crown consultation</li> <li>• Provides tools, guidance, advice, training to all federal departments.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provides expert consultation advice from a whole government perspective with additional support on a project-by-project basis.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Co-develops Consultation arrangements with Northern Indigenous Groups and/or Territorial Government/s (non-project specific)</li> </ul>

Federal Department	Role
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate partnerships and collaboration, improve consultation and accommodation processes and foster ongoing information exchange.</li> </ul>
<b>NPMO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Coordination:</b> Coordinates federal participation – EA and *regulatory (*NPMO involvement under review)</li> <li><b>Convening:</b> Brings together proponents Territorial/Indigenous governments and other organizations in understanding and navigation of Northern assessment and regulatory systems</li> <li><b>Consultation:</b> Acts as the Federal Crown Consultation Coordinator for major projects in the three territories</li> </ul>
<b>CIRNAC, Northern Affairs Organization (Northern Regional Directorates and Natural Resources and Environment Branch)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal liaison for Northern Affairs and issues</li> <li>Responsible for Federal Resource Legislation and Regulations and Implementation (YESAA, MVRMA, NuPPA, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory amendments/reviews</li> <li>Policy – Environment and Resource Management</li> <li>Northern regulatory efficiency – advance clear, trusted and functional regulatory regimes in the North</li> <li>CIRNAC participation in EAs/regulatory reviews, and making decision recommendations to Minister (including consideration of whether s.35 Duty has been met)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Supports meaningful participation in Northern impact assessment in Major Projects Reviews (assessment and some regulatory processes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages the Northern Participant Funding Program</li> <li>Funds Indigenous-led studies through NRI (Regional, Baseline and Cumulative effects studies)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Decision Makers i.e., Individual Federal Departments Operating in the North (including CIRNAC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plans, participates in and/or leads consultation activities (including assessment and regulatory phase) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible to fund own consultation activities</li> <li>Federal departments may sit on NPMOs Project Specific Federal Working Groups</li> <li>Makes decisions on projects when empowered in areas within their mandate/jurisdiction</li> <li>Develops a departmental/agency wide approach to consultation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

The following questions were identified by participants following the Government of Canada's presentation on consultation processes:

- When capacity of Indigenous groups limits their ability to meaningfully engage in consultation processes, why is the majority of Government of Canada money going to Critical Mineral Strategy initiatives and not the Northern Participant Funding Program?
- How do the federal departments coordinate with provincial/territorial Crowns to ensure asserted Indigenous territories are kept up to date in the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS)?
- What aspects of Crown Consultation processes are public (i.e. are preliminary screening or final recommendation reports released publicly)?
- Are Northern Project Management Office Crown Consultation records available to the Boards upon request?
- What are the processes for the Crown communicating the adequacy of consultation conducted by the Boards?
- In cases where both a territorial government and federal government are coordinating their consultation responses, do the federal government departments produce multiple departmental recommendations or a single response?

Following the presentation, the Boards had an opportunity for one-on-one regional discussions with CAU, NPMO, and NAO. Regional actions and follow-ups generated in these discussions are found in Appendix C. ATRIS System Q&A responses from CIRNAC can be found in Appendix D.

**Key takeaways from the discussion of consultation processes include:**

- **Addressing uncertainties in current approaches to consultation, particularly for smaller projects that may not require a Ministerial decision:** Federal and territorial governments focus and resources are primarily dedicated to major projects, creating uncertainties on whether the duty to consult is triggered for smaller projects that may also have impacts on established or asserted Aboriginal and Treaty rights (e.g., projects requiring only Type B Water Use Licences).
- **Ensuring consistent and coordinated consultation with Indigenous groups to minimize information gaps and consultation fatigue:** Indigenous groups have shared that Board and Federal Crown Consultation processes feel duplicative and lead to consultation fatigue.
- **Exploring further discussions between the GoC and Boards to prioritize funding for regulatory processes:** Boards identified the need for funding to support initiatives to enhance their processes (e.g., terminology workshops, education, engagement outside project specific engagements, etc.). They also identified the need for ongoing discussions with the federal government to inform and prioritize funding needs. NAO shared that funding may be available to support operational Board processes (e.g., workshops).
- **Sharing Government of Canada training with Boards:** Boards expressed an interest in training on Consultation. The CAU consultation training highlights the meaning of S.35 in a reconciliation context; however, this training is only available to

federal officials. The ATRIS training is available to members of the public. CAU committed to sharing information about this training with Boards.

The following items were identified to support ongoing collaboration between the Boards and the Government of Canada:

- **CIRNAC CAU to demo ATRIS for Boards:** CAU offered to share an ATRIS demo with Boards. Ryan Fequet of the WLWB committed to contacting CAU and Boards to identify a time for a demonstration of the system.
- **NPMO to support collaborative efforts across Boards:** NPMO offered to bring forward initiatives and collaborative efforts on Consultation processes raised by Boards during the Forum forward to the appropriate GoC tables and forums. NPMO will reach out to the Boards as conversations within the Government of Canada are advanced.
- **Increasing effectiveness of Resource Development Advisory Groups (RDAGs):** NPMO has been exploring options to make RDAGs more effective, including inviting Boards to participate in these coordination tables to support federal consultation efforts.

## TRANSBOUNDARY PRELIMINARY SCREENING AND ASSESSMENTS

Transboundary issues and opportunities for coordination across Boards was a topic discussed at the 2021 PTBF. The session focused on exploring what coordinating on transboundary projects (or projects with transboundary impacts) could look like in practice, through a discussion of realistic project scenarios. Since then, Boards have advanced thinking and practice on transboundary projects or projects with transboundary impacts, including developing processes to support coordination across Boards. The purpose of this session was to identify lessons learned since 2021, identify upcoming transboundary projects to proactively plan for coordination, and to clarify processes for coordination across Boards.

To support learning from one another, the NIRB, LWBs, and MVEIRB shared lessons learned from coordination on projects. These include:

- **Developing a transboundary strategy to support project development and transboundary considerations:** NIRB described their internal Transboundary Strategy (drafted in April 2020). The purpose of the Strategy is to assist staff and Board members with understanding important considerations related to transboundary projects. The Strategy is meant to be dynamic and will be updated to reflect changes because of Nunavut's devolution. The Strategy includes considerations related to the impacts of projects outside Nunavut settlement area, impacts of projects on Indigenous rights, consideration for overlapping treaty and territory areas, applicable legislation, etc. The NIRB offered to share the Transboundary Strategy with other Boards to inform learning.
- **Developing MOUs between Boards and other organizations:** Boards shared examples of the structure and contents of existing MOUs between Boards (e.g., MVEIRB and NIRB) or Boards with other organizations (e.g., MVEIRB and Yukon government). Common elements include protocols for consultation between organizations, project timelines, staff training, as well as considerations for trans-regional impacts. Boards without existing MOUs expressed an openness to developing MOUs as needed.

- **Navigating challenges for international transboundary coordination:** The NIRB shared reflections on their experience supporting the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) which includes considerations for coordination between Canada and other countries, applying existing assessment mechanisms. The implementation of this Convention identified some key differences in processes across countries, for example, differing interpretations/use of hearings. The NIRB shared the importance of undertaking front-end work to proactively understand the implications of these types of international conventions on Board processes.

**Key takeaways from the discussion of transboundary preliminary screening and assessments include:**

- **Exploring development of additional MOUs between Boards:** Boards discussed the potential for additional MOUs between Boards with transboundary considerations, where these agreements are not already in place. Boards identified key processes and next steps for MOU development, including mapping out processes to support alignment (i.e. regulatory pathways), drafting implementation plans, etc. While it would be preferred to map out processes at a high level, project-by-project specific plans may be required.
- **Maintaining conversations about current and future transboundary projects:** Boards discussed the importance of regular communications on potential or upcoming transboundary projects. The NIRB highlighted the importance of multi-jurisdictional reviews and ensuring procedural fairness in considering future transboundary projects. For example, Nunavut and MV Boards discussed the importance of ongoing coordination on future transboundary projects, such as the Grays Bay Port and Road. Communication and collaboration were emphasized as approaches to address regulatory challenges associated with transboundary projects.
- **Ensuring transparency in federal funding for transboundary projects:** Boards identified concerns with the provision of participant funding for upcoming transboundary projects, including whether CIRNAC was supporting participation of potentially impacted communities within individual regulatory regimes or from a transboundary perspective. Boards discussed the need to forecast potential transboundary projects to understand the financial implications on participant funding.

The following item was identified as a potential area for ongoing collaboration between the Boards:

- **The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and Nunavut Boards expressed an interest in jointly advocating for the development of a cumulative effects framework:** The LWBs of the Mackenzie Valley and Nunavut Boards discussed a collective interest in advocating for a pan-territorial or Nunavut/NWT cumulative effects framework (approach to be determined) from the Minister of Northern Affairs, as approaching this discussion in a coordinated way may have a higher impact.

## CLOSING

In closing, participants provided key reflections on the 2024-2025 Forum. These included reflections on what worked well about the planning and delivery of the 2024-25 Forum, what could be improved in the future and potential areas for ongoing collaboration.

### **Feedback on what worked well:**

- The regional one-on-one discussions created space for meaningful discussions with federal representatives.
- Facilitators providing extra time for discussions and working sessions, as needed.
- The cultural learning opportunity (i.e., guided walk along the Yukon River) was a highlight of the Forum.

### **Feedback on opportunities for improvement:**

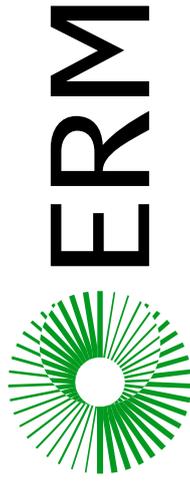
- Ensuring that terminology and instructions for activities are clear in advance.
- Sharing slides in advance of the PTBF and ensuring enough time is provided on the agenda to effectively share content.
- Ensuring accessibility considerations are factored into meeting venue selection (e.g., large screens for sharing slides, making the presentation screen bigger, having two screens for projection, etc.).

NPMO shared closing words on the importance of the Forum for meaningful conversations across Boards. NPMO expressed ongoing support for future Forums. Lastly, the LWBs offered to host the 2025-2026 Forum in Yellowknife (NWT) on October 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. NIRB offered to host the 2026-2027 Forum in Cambridge Bay (NU).

## APPENDIX A PARTICIPANT LIST

Region	Participating Boards – EA	Participating Boards – LWB
<b>Mackenzie Valley</b>	Mark Cliffe-Phillips Kate Mansfield Stacey Menzies	Angela Love Angela Plautz Chris Hotson Natalie Lippa Cassandra DeFrancis Ryan Fequet Marie-Eve Cyr Rhiana Bams Leonard DeBastien Elizabeth Wright
<b>Nunavut</b>	Dionne Filiatrault Tara Arko Mark Hadlari Mark Ings	Karén Kharatyan Wilfrid Bagley Mohammad Ali Shaikh Abid Jan
<b>Yukon</b>	Kent Bretzlaff Rose Sellars Caleb Light Amy Ryder Vanessa Thorson Heidi Rumscheidt Nick Grzybowski	Karen Clyde Jean Beckerton Kristi Wallace
<b>NPMO</b>	Alain Gagnon Boyan Tracz Sandy Craig Lisa Dyer	
<b>CIRNAC</b>	Kirsten Miller (CAU) Jenel Larocque (CAU)	

Region	Participating Boards – EA	Participating Boards – LWB
	Jessica Newcombe (CAU) Luisa Turano (NRE) Kim Pawley (NRE)	
<b>ERM</b>	Vicky Weekes Emily Caddell Katelin Boles	



## APPENDIX B FORUM AGENDA

DAY 1: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

**Location:** Conference Room 4, Sternwheeler Hotel (201 Wood Street, Whitehorse, YT)

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
	8:00 – 8:30am	<b>Settling In</b> <i>*Coffee and snacks served</i>
1.	8:30 – 9:00am 30 minutes	<b>Welcome and Roundtable Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural opening / welcome</li><li>• Welcome from NPMO (5 mins)</li><li>• Roundtable introductions (10 mins)</li><li>• Review of the PTBF objectives and agenda for the Forum / housekeeping (5 mins)</li></ul>
2.	9:00 – 10:00am 60 minutes	<b>Internal Board Updates</b> <b>Purpose:</b> <i>This session is an opportunity for Boards to share updates on initiatives they are implementing, focusing on community participation in Board processes, organizational effectiveness and/or other highlights or initiatives advanced since the last PTBF in February 2024. During 2024 – 25 Forum Steering Committee meetings, participants identified that it would be helpful to share updates on work they have advanced since the last meeting in 2024.</i> <b>Presentations by 4 boards (10 mins each + 5 mins Q&amp;A) (template provided)</b>
	10:00 – 10:15am 15 minutes	<b>Break</b> <i>*Coffee and snacks served</i>
3.	10:15 – 11:00am	<b>Internal Board Updates (continued)</b>

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
4.	45 minutes 11:00 – 11:45am 45 minutes	<p><b>Presentations by 3 boards (10 mins each + 5 mins Q&amp;A) (template provided)</b></p> <p><b>Privacy and Information Collection</b>  <b>Purpose:</b> The 2024-25 Steering Committee identified an interest in learning from one another on approaches to complying with Federal privacy and information collection requirements, including those established under the Privacy Act and Access to Information Act (and associated Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) requirements). The purpose of this session is to share how different Boards go about meeting the evolving requirements for compliance and reporting under these pieces of federal legislation, including identifying training and/or capacity needs to comply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary roundtable discussion (45 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What practices have you adopted that others can learn from?</li> <li>○ What challenges have you encountered where others might have solutions?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.	11:45 – 12:30pm 45 minutes	<p><b>Pan-Northern Public Registry</b>  <b>Purpose:</b> Boards are exploring the idea of a single window pan-northern public registry or the opportunity to integrate registries across jurisdictions to support the assessment and permitting of transboundary projects or projects with transboundary impacts. The purpose of this session is to learn more about the Online Review System used by Boards in the Mackenzie Valley and discuss potential for application of a similar tool across northern Boards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: <b>Sharing on MVEIRB/MVLWB/SLWB/GLWB/WLWB Online Review System (ORS) (Sharing by MVEIRB and WLWB)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 15 mins / presentation</li> <li>○ Q&amp;A, reflections and discussion (30 mins)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6.	12:30 – 1:30pm 60 minutes 1:30 – 2:30pm 60 minutes	<p><b>Lunch</b> *Buffet lunch served</p> <p><b>Lessons Learned: Proceedings</b>  <b>Purpose:</b> Most northern Board processes include requirements for public hearings or panel processes. YESAB is currently preparing for the first project to undergo a Panel Review. A Panel Review is the</p>

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
		<p>highest level of environmental and socio-economic assessment in the Yukon and the only level of assessment requiring a Panel to hold public hearings. This session is an opportunity to share lessons learned to inform ongoing process improvements (including efforts to decolonize proceedings) and to inform YESAB's first public hearings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: <b>Framing the discussion / posing questions on public hearings and Panel proceedings (YESAB)</b> (10 mins)</li> <li>• Part 2: <b>Sharing lessons learned (NIRB/MVEIRB/WLWB)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 10 min/presentation (30 mins)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Part 3: Q&amp;A, reflections and discussion (20 mins)</li> </ul>
	<p>2:30 – 2:45 15 minutes</p>	<p><b>Break</b> *Coffee and snacks served</p>
7.	<p>2:45 – 4:15 90 minutes</p>	<p><b>Lessons Learned: Devolution</b>  <b>Purpose:</b> <i>On January 18, 2024 the Nunavut Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement was signed between the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Devolution will allow Nunavummiut to make decisions on how public lands and resources are used and developed. As the Yukon underwent devolution in 2003 and the Northwest Territories underwent devolution in 2014, this session is an opportunity to share lessons and to learn across jurisdictions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: <b>Sharing on lessons learned from the Yukon and Northwest Territories (YESAB/MVLWB)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 10 min / presentation + 5 mins Q&amp;A (30 mins)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Part 2: Breakout group (EA/Screening and Permitting/Licensing) discussion (40 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ What changes came about because of devolution? What changes are still to be phased in?</li> <li>◦ What challenges have you experienced? What key tools / mechanisms supported devolution?</li> <li>◦ If you could go back in time, what advice would you provide to your Board to navigate devolution?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Part 3: Plenary report back on breakout group discussion (20 mins)</li> </ul>

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
	4:15 – 4:30pm 15 minutes	<p><b>Day 1 Wrap Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of Day 1</li> <li>• Reminder of evening social and outdoor activity on Day 2</li> </ul>
	6:00pm	<p><b>Optional Social Event</b>  <b>Dinner reservations:</b> <i>Gather Café and Taphouse, 101 Keish Street (yellow and blue building near the Kwanlin Dun Cultural Center)</i></p>

## DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>

**Location:** Conference Room 4, Sternwheeler Hotel (201 Wood Street, Whitehorse, YT)

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
	8:00 – 8:30am	<p><b>Settling In</b> *Coffee and snacks served</p>
1.	8:30 – 8:45am 15 minutes	<p><b>Welcome Back and Day 2 Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick recap of the previous day’s discussions (10 mins)</li> <li>• Review agenda for today’s session (5 mins)</li> </ul>
2.	8:45 – 10:00am 75 minutes	<p><b>Consultation Processes</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Northern regulatory frameworks have been designed to include public participation in project decision-making, permitting and licencing, to enable people to participate in decisions that affect them. All Boards have requirements to conduct consultation as part of their administrative processes, and like other parties, many undertake a range of other engagement activities. The Government of Canada (and in most cases Territorial governments) have a duty to consult, and where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous groups when it considers conduct that might adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights. In northern regulatory frameworks, the duty to consult and accommodate applies to a range of activities including major project approvals, issuance of licences and permits as well as other activities. The Government of Canada’s Crown Consultation processes was discussed at the previous PTBF and led to many questions from Board participants.</p> <p>The purpose of this session is to enable constructive two-way dialogue that allows Boards and the Government of Canada to continue to learn from each other about their respective consultation processes in the spirit of supporting meaningful engagement and continuous improvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: Building a common vision for meaningful engagement and consultation - Partner brainstorm / Plenary report back (30 mins)</li> <li>• Sharing from CIRNAC NAO, CIRNAC CAU and NPMO on Crown Consultation (presentation/40 mins)</li> </ul>
	10:00 – 10:15am	<p><b>Break</b> *Coffee and snacks served</p>

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
3.	10:15 – 12:05pm 110 minutes	<p><b>Consultation Processes (<i>continued</i>)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing from CIRNAC NAO, CIRNAC CAU and NPMO on Crown Consultation (continued) (20 mins)</li> <li>• Regional “speed dating” on consultation processes (60 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Focus on key themes/questions identified in advance (20 mins/region)</li> <li>◦ Regions cycle through discussions with CIRNAC CAU, CIRNAC NAO, NPMO</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Plenary discussion: Identifying opportunities for improvement and alignment to support meaningful engagement through respective Board and GoC processes (30 mins)</li> </ul>
	12:05 – 1:15pm	<p><b>Lunch / Time to Prepare for Outing</b></p> <p>*Buffet lunch served</p> <p>*Please meet in the Sternwheeler Lobby at 1:45</p>
4.	2:00 – 4:30pm	<p><b>Walk Along Chu Níikwän with Amber Berard-Althouse</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> <i>Amber Berard-Althouse is Tlingit woman and a proud member of Kluane First Nations. In 2014, she started as an interpreter for Parks Canada in Kluane National Park. That’s when she started giving talks about the history and culture of the Yukon First Nations people. Amber is deeply inspired by her Indigenous roots, offering insightful teachings on medicinal plants and leading engaging discussions on the rich history and vibrant culture of Yukon First Nations people. With a commitment to promoting wellness and preserving Indigenous knowledge, Amber inspires others to embrace holistic living and celebrate the wisdom of her heritage. Amber will be leading a walk along Chu Níikwän (the Yukon River) in downtown Whitehorse. She will be sharing about Yukon First Nations people and the history of the Yukon.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Starting location: Sternwheeler Hotel lobby</li> <li>• Drop off location: Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre</li> <li>• Please come prepared / dressed for time outdoors.</li> </ul>
	6:00pm -	<p><b>Optional Social Event (TBC)</b></p>

## DAY 3: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>

**Location:** Conference Room 4, Sternwheeler Hotel (201 Wood Street, Whitehorse, YT)

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
	8:00 – 8:30am	<p><b>Settling In</b> *Coffee and snacks served</p>
1.	8:30 – 8:45am 15 minutes	<p><b>Welcome Back and Day 3 Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick recap of the discussion to date (10 mins)</li> <li>• Review agenda for Day 3 (5 mins)</li> </ul>
2.	8:45 – 10:00am 75 minutes	<p><b>Transboundary Preliminary Screening and Assessments</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> <i>Transboundary issues and opportunities for coordination across Boards was a topic discussed at the 2021 PTBF. The session focused on exploring what coordinating on transboundary projects (or projects with transboundary impacts) could look like in practice, through a discussion of realistic project scenarios. Since then, Boards have advanced thinking and practice on transboundary projects or projects with transboundary impacts, including developing processes to support coordination across Boards. The purpose of the morning sessions on Day 3 is to identify lessons learned since 2021, identify upcoming transboundary projects to proactively plan for coordination, and to clarify processes for coordination across Boards.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Part 1: Lessons Learned from Coordination on Projects</b> (60 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ MVEIRB / NIRB / MVLWB (10 min presentation + 10 min Q&amp;A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tell us about a project or tool you are using to support coordination with another Board.</li> <li>▪ What have you learned?</li> <li>▪ What would you change or do differently moving forward?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Part 2: Plenary group discussion to identify upcoming transboundary projects and ways to divide for working session (15 mins)</li> </ul>
	10:00 – 10:15am	<p><b>Break</b></p>

No.	Timing	Agenda Item
3.	10:15 – 11:15am 60 minutes	<p>*Coffee and snacks served</p> <p><b>Transboundary Preliminary Screenings and Assessments (Continued)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small breakout working session based on upcoming transboundary projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What issues can we anticipate?</li> <li>○ What would ongoing coordination look like?</li> <li>○ What tools would we like to use?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.	11:15am – 12:00pm 45 minutes	<p><b>Wrap up and next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap up of 2024 PTBF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feedback on Forum format</li> <li>○ Closing roundtable</li> <li>○ Discussion for the Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plans for the next two gatherings (2025 and 2026 given logistics)</li> <li>▪ Ongoing initiatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	12:00 – 1:00	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p>*Buffet lunch served</p>

## APPENDIX C REGIONAL CONSULTATION ACTION ITEMS

Region	NPMO	CAU	NAO
<p><b>Yukon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consultation Needs and Impacts:</b> YESAB expressed the need for discussions outside project-specific processes on consultation needs/impacts.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action Item:</b> NPMO to follow up with YESAB on tools being developed to address consultation needs outside of EA processes.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Discuss opportunities for YESAB to participate in RDAGs. Follow up with YWB (as not in attendance) to determine if this would be of interest.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reliance on Board processes:</b> YESAB asked to be included in the letters that the Crown sends to potentially impacted Indigenous groups.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action items:</b> CAU to follow up with YESAB about sharing formal communication confirming which Indigenous groups the Crown intends on consulting (and whether to post these to the registry)</li> <li>○ YESAB, CAU and NPMO to have ongoing conversations on consultation processes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Casino Project Funding:</b> YESAB asked for confirmation on funding available for the Casino Project. Submission of the Project's Environmental and Socioeconomic Effects (ESE) statement submission will inform funding.</li> <li>• <b>Expectations of IGs for NPPFP:</b> NAO will engage Boards on timing of launch for NPPFP and forecast the process/relevant projects for all three territories to inform fund allocation.</li> <li>• <b>Placer mining renewals:</b> Renewal activity is expected to increase over the next three years. <b>Action item:</b> NAO to discuss different approach to funding with YG as a result.</li> <li>• <b>Funding Requests and Analysis:</b> <b>Action item:</b> NAO funding team to conduct an analysis to identify gaps or opportunities with NPPFP funds in Yukon. The 30-day notice period for assessment may be a good time to launch a funding call.</li> </ul>	

Region	NPMO	CAU	NAO
<p><b>Mackenzie Valley (MV)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Federal Working Groups (FWGs) and RDAGs:</b> Boards asked how MVEIRB's process for referring projects directly to EA changes NPMOs responsibilities for FWGs and RDAGs. NPMO to follow-up.</li> <li>• <b>Action Item:</b> Discuss opportunities for LWBs and MVEIRB to participate in FWGs and RDAGs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ATRIS:</b> Boards inquired about how often ATRIS is updated and the reliability of it as a tool to inform their processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Action item:</b> CAU to share a Q&amp;A document with the Boards that provides answers to general ATRIS questions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Type B Water Licences without a hearing and no requirements for Minister sign-off:</b> Boards discussed how Type B Water Licences not requiring Minister sign off creates uncertainty regarding whether a trigger for Crown Consultation exists in these processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Action Item:</b> Boards will work towards shared understanding of adequacy of consultation across the GoC, Boards, and GNWT for Type B Water Licences.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Type A Water Licences:</b> Boards inquired about how the Crown fulfills its Duty to Consult obligations in Type A post-issuance activities where a Minister signs off on water licences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Action Item:</b> NAO to follow up with Boards on this inquiry.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funding for Board-led processes:</b> NAO plans to launch a call for funding proposals in Nunavut, reflecting RIA needs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nunavut</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FWGs and RDAGs:</b> The NIRB expressed the need for RDAGs for projects at the preliminary assessment and scoping phases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CAU Tool Development:</b> The NWB asked to be included in CAU tool development. CAU welcomes the input from water boards on the tools or needs of consultation</li> </ul>	

Region	NPMO	CAU	NAO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action Item:</b> Discuss opportunities for Boards to participate in FWGs and RDAGs.</li> <li>• <b>Consultation Coordination</b></li> <li>• <b>During Regulatory Phase:</b> Boards identified renewed interest in NPMO providing coordination of federal departments during the regulatory phase.</li> <li>• <b>Type B Water Licences without a hearing and no Minister sign-off:</b> The NWB inquired about whether they could access Crown advice on their approaches to Consultation for Type B Water Licences (i.e., no requirement for a hearing or Minister sign-off).</li> <li>○ <b>Action item:</b> NPMO to coordinate discussions with relevant federal departments and Nunavut Boards to explore participation/provision of advice to Boards about Crown Consultation</li> </ul>	<p>protocols and resource centres with CAU's Partnerships North team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Consistent and Coordinated Approaches:</b> Boards discussed the need to ensure consistent and coordinated Consultation approaches across assessment and regulatory processes in Nunavut. For example, the NIRB is currently developing engagement guidance for proponents. Would be helpful to coordinate with federal government.</li> <li>○ <b>Action item:</b> CAU and NPMO to discuss opportunities to support Boards through tools/guidance development or review.</li> <li>• <b>North Baffin Project:</b> NIRB inquired about consultation protocols for the North Baffin project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action Item:</b> NAO to hold ongoing conversations with regulatory Boards to prioritize funds for regulatory processes.</li> <li>• <b>Devolution:</b> Nunavut Boards sought clarification on CIRNACs role post-devolution, specifically given CIRNAC's role for coordinating federal submissions to the NWB. CIRNAC has engaged the Government of Nunavut about the need to engage Boards in devolution discussions. Boards expressed an interest in being engaged in these conversations.</li> <li>○ <b>Action item:</b> NAO to continue need to include Boards in devolution discussions.</li> <li>• <b>NFPF and Regulatory Processes:</b> Nunavut Boards inquired about strength of claim for parties outside of Nunavut seeking funding to participate in Nunavut processes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action item:</b> NAO to schedule regular bilateral meetings with the NIRB to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Region	NPMO	CAU	NAO
	<p>obligations for Type B Water Licences.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action item:</b> CAU Partnerships North team will follow-up with the NIRB to discuss these project specific questions.</li> </ul>	<p>discuss updates on groups with s.35 rights in Nunavut.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Action item:</b> NAO to collaborate with Nunavut Boards on outreach to groups outside Nunavut with s.35 rights in Nunavut (i.e. education materials, short videos, etc.).</li> </ul>

# APPENDIX D ATRIS SYSTEM Q&A

2024-2025 PAN-TERRITORIAL  
BOARD FORUM

CONSULTATION AND  
ACCOMMODATION  
UNIT



Crown-Indigenous Relations  
and Northern Affairs Canada

Relations Couronne-Autochtones  
et Affaires du Nord Canada

## Questions & Answers

### ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS INFORMATION SYSTEM (ATRIS)

What is the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS)?

- The Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS) is a web-based, geographic information system that locates Indigenous nations, groups, communities, and organizations and displays information pertaining to their potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights.
- ATRIS was designed to provide information that assists Federal Government officials and others in their duty to consult Indigenous groups.
- ATRIS, and any information contained in it, is not intended to provide or constitute legal advice on section 35 rights or duty to consult, nor is it intended to replace direct communication, partnerships, or collaboration with Indigenous communities.
- The content of ATRIS is a compilation of data obtained from many sources and the data is subject to change without notice.
- While we attempt to present and maintain current and accurate information in ATRIS, Crown-Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) cannot guarantee that the information is up to date due to circumstances outside its control. CIRNAC accepts no responsibility or liability for any errors, inaccuracies and/or omissions in ATRIS.

What is CIRNAC's goal for how this tool is used, both the internal and external version (as we understand there are two versions from our notes from the previous PTBF)?

- ATRIS was designed to provide information that assists Federal Government officials and others in their duty to consult Indigenous groups.

- ATRIS is part of the Government of Canada's Open Government initiative, as such, approximately 97% of the data in ATRIS is publicly available.
- ATRIS does have the ability to allow users to have different levels of access, restricting some data/records to only be viewed by different user groups (Federal officials only, CAU/CIRNAC, etc). The "internal version" may contain slightly more information than the "public version". This is often due to reasons such as but not limited to:
  - An Indigenous Group requested sensitive information to only be shared with federal officials
  - Content is developing, data has been submitted/drafted but not yet fully vetted to be released publicly.

What information is included in ATRIS?

- ATRIS is a system that pulls data from internal and external sources, as well as displays information developed internally based on discussions with relevant stakeholders, and contains information on the following where possible:
  - Indigenous nations, groups, and organizations, including:
    - contact information for chiefs and band offices
    - tribal council affiliations
  - Other relevant information on Indigenous nations, groups, and organizations such as:
    - Treaties and agreements, including: Ø historic and modern treaties, self-government agreements, consultation protocols)
    - Claims and negotiations,
    - Court cases and decisions, including: Ø litigation between Indigenous groups and the Crown relating to Section 35 Aboriginal and treaty rights, litigation between Indigenous groups and the Crown relating to consultation matters & key court decisions related to the legal duty to consult
    - Consultation-related information, including: Ø historical context, community perspectives, reports, studies, correspondence or agreements.

How accurate is the information in ATRIS for the North?

- Consultation Information Services of the Consultation and Accommodation Unit (CAU) (who manage ATRIS) cannot guarantee that the information within

the system is up-to-date or complete. Information within the system is updated as regularly as possible to include new and emerging information related to consultations with Indigenous communities, applicable court decisions, and other relevant information. CAU also works with Indigenous communities to co-develop and co-manage information that can be verified through due diligence processes prior to posting.

- CAU's Partnerships- North Team is currently working to review northern data in ATRIS to ensure its accuracy and will work with Consultation Information Services team to discuss future updates.
- If you notice information in the system is out of date or in need of an update, feel free to reach out to Consultation Information Services at [indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca](mailto:indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca).

Does ATRIS include information on northern Indigenous communities, land claims, surface and subsurface rights)? Does it include caribou ranges?

- ATRIS includes information on all northern Indigenous Groups.
- ATRIS does not currently include datasets such as surface and subsurface right land parcels, caribou ranges, known harvesting areas, areas/boundaries of locations that hold Indigenous significance etc.

How do CIRNAC and other Federal Departments and Agencies actually use this internal and external tool?

- Federal officials are recommended to use internal ATRIS to help determine which Indigenous groups they may need to consult as a result of the activity they are planning to undertake. It also aids them to understand what Aboriginal and Treaty rights are at play, and obtain contextual and contact information.
- ATRIS allows users to explore its database through various search tools that apply structured query language.
- Searches can be started by entering the first three letters in the name of an Indigenous community or organization, or in the name of a treaty, agreement, claim or assertion.
- Users can also search by First Nation band number, map coordinates, court case and decision, NRCan topographic map sheets, place name, postal code, province or territory, or reserve.
- Many use this tool's interactive map to draw, pinpoint, or apply a radius of their "projects

footprint” directly to a location on the map. Once entered users can select ‘search’. ATRIS will then produce a list of communities and provide information on the Aboriginal and Treaty rights that overlap with the users search criteria.

- Federal officials also use the “public version”, or external version, to undertake their searches as it can be accessed from any computer/device and displays a more user friendly interface, similar to google and easier, common look and feel.

What is the process for how the internal and external versions are updated with content?

- ATRIS is a dynamic and evolving system with its content being continually updated.
- As further information on Aboriginal rights in Canada becomes available through consultations with Aboriginal communities, court decisions or other means, ATRIS will be updated to reflect and enhance public access to this important data.
- As ATRIS is a repository of information that integrates off the shelf data from existing databases as well as Section 35 Aboriginal and treaty rights content that is gathered and managed by the Consultation Information Service (CIS), the currency of its information is partially dependent upon the update cycles of other databases. As such ATRIS is refreshed daily so any updates made to other databases or within ATRIS will be available the following day. Information is also developed by the team in consultation with relevant communities and stakeholders to confirm content accuracy.
- CIRNAC invites users to participate in the development of this system by sharing their feedback using the ‘Provide Feedback on ATRIS’ within the Help menu, or reaching out to the Single Window at [indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca](mailto:indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca).

I’ve noticed some information in the system that seems to be out of date, inaccurate, or missing. Whom should I contact?

- CIRNAC invites Indigenous partners and other system users to share feedback using the feedback form available within ATRIS to identify outdated, inaccurate or missing information. For any questions or inquiries, including Indigenous partners seeking to co-develop content for ATRIS they are encouraged to

	<p>contact:  <a href="mailto:indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca">indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca</a></p>
<p>Who is responsible for updating the internal and external version?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Consultation Information Service (CIS) team within CAU holds the responsibility to manage the ATRIS. However, since ATRIS is a repository of information that integrates off the shelf data from existing databases, amongst other sources, the currency of its information is partially dependent upon the update cycles of other databases and the team’s ability to work with partners to update content.</li> </ul>
<p>How often is either version updated?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATRIS is a dynamic and evolving system. The newest digital version of the external system was released on September 12, 2023. Similar updates are currently in development for the internal system. A continuous improvement model is used for the system to ensure usability of the system. The content housed within ATRIS however is updated on a continuous basis.</li> </ul>
<p>How do updates get communicated to those using either version of the tool?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAU-CIRNAC does not currently communicate to any user, internal or external, when content has been updated.</li> </ul>
<p>How does CIRNAC collaborate with Provincial, Territorial, and Indigenous Governments regarding this tool?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CIRNAC invites users, including Provincial, Territorial and Indigenous Governments to indicate their interest to collaborate with us to make updates to the system by sharing their interest using the ‘Provide Feedback on ATRIS’ within the Help menu, or reaching out to the Single Window at <a href="mailto:indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca">indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca</a>. The CIS team will then be able to work with interested parties to discuss collaboration opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>Where can I learn more about how to use ATRIS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATRIS training sessions are available to the public as well as government officials. (includes government employees, Indigenous organizations, industry, etc.) Tailored training session are also available upon request.</li> <li>Free online drop-in “webinars” are hosted regularly and provide an overview of ATRIS and its key functions. The training schedule can be found on the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System</li> </ul>

page. Tailored group training sessions can be coordinated, subject to availability, by contacting [indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca](mailto:indigenous.consultations.autochtones@canada.ca).

- Upcoming English Training for ATRIS:

December 18, 2024; January 8, 2025

January 22, 2025; February 5, 2025

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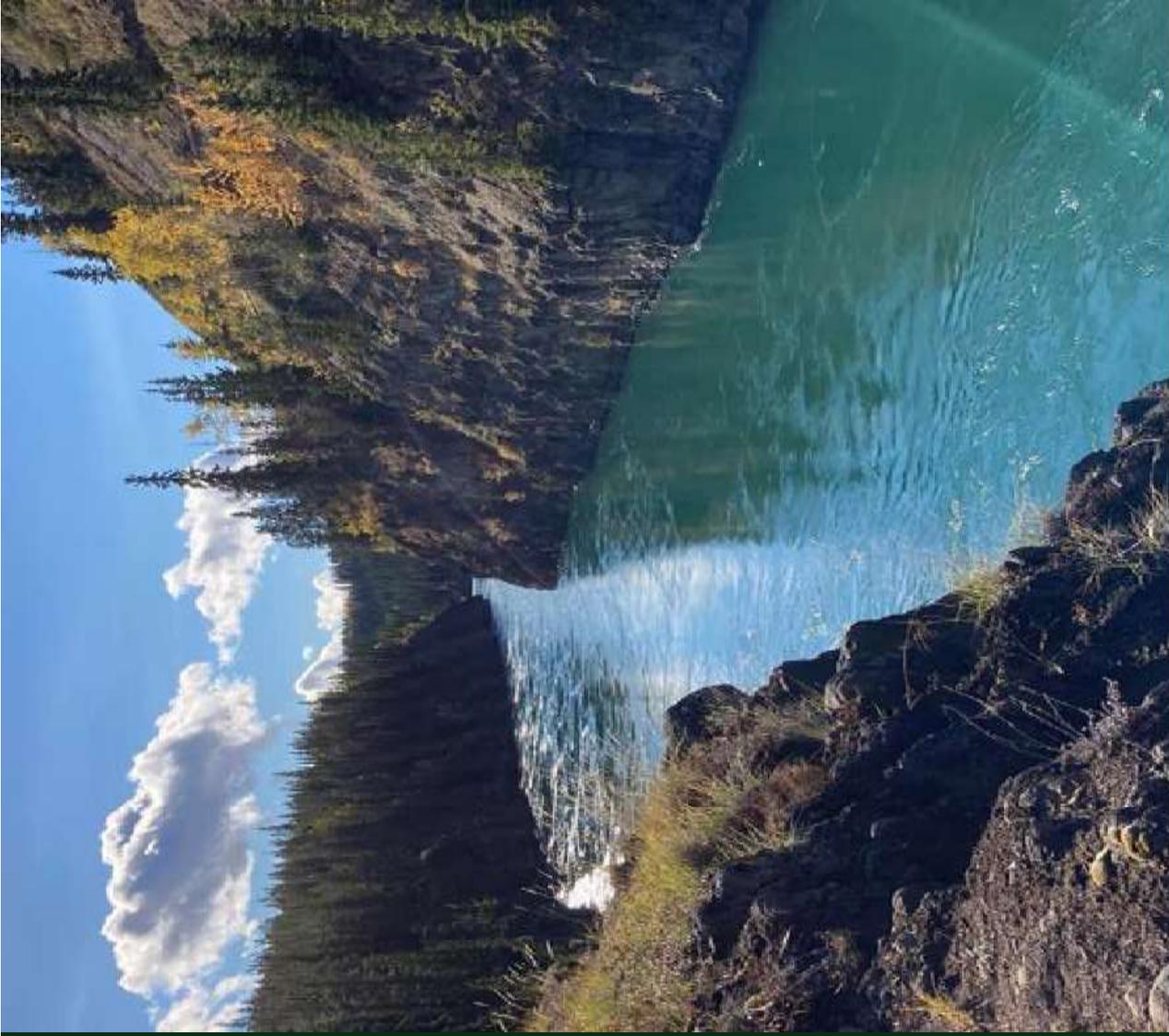
2024

# Pan-Territorial Assessment & Regulatory Board Forum

OCTOBER 29 - 31 2024  
WHITEHORSE, YT

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# Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM

OCTOBER 29 – 31, 2024

WHITEHORSE, YT

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# General Updates

HIGHLIGHTS OR INITIATIVES ADVANCED SINCE THE LAST PTBF

# General Updates

## Board Priority #1 – Addressing Organizational Capacity

- Designated Office Rules Review
- Reorganization to YESAB’s current structure

## Board Priority #2 - Advancing First Nations Relations and the Consideration of Rights

- Inaugural Yukon First Nation-YESAB Gathering
- Development of community relations specific positions

## Policy Guidance

- Confidential information collection and use (YESAA s.121)
- Panel member selection criteria
- Request for studies or research (YESAA s.112)
- Consideration of Land Use Plans

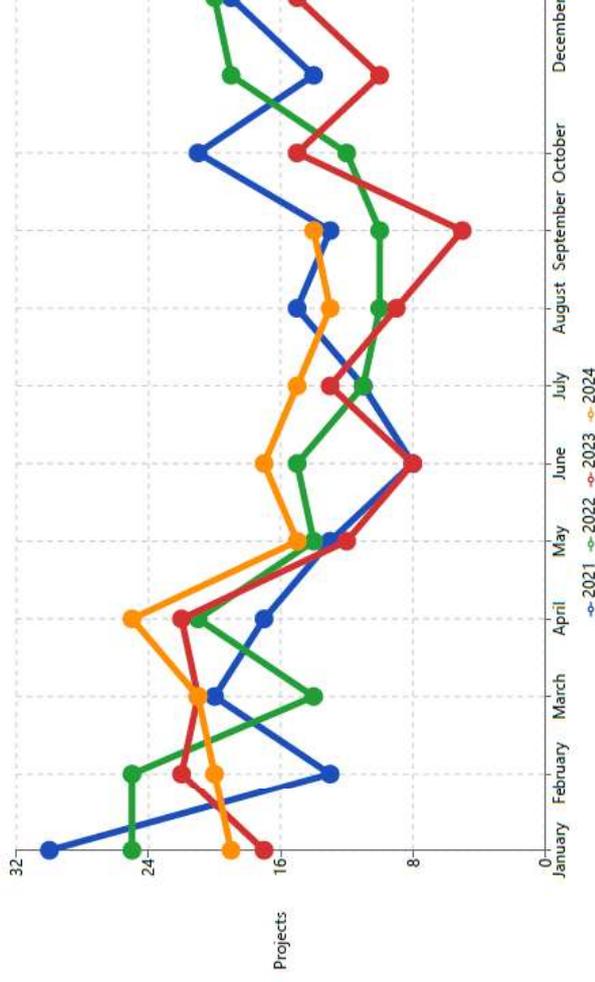
## Assessments

- Callison Generating Station
- Faro Mine Remediation Project
- Judicial Review of Michelle Creek

## Projects Submitted by Month and Year

Submissions between January 01, 2021 and September 30, 2024

Projects within date filter: 718



Year	# Placer Permits Expiring
2024	(23 expired) + (7 expiring) = 30
2025	74
2026	66
2027	68

Year	# Quartz Permits Expiring
2024	(5 expired) + (1 expiring) = 6
2025	8
2026	8
2027	7

# Community Participation in Board Processes

# Updates on Community Participation in Board Processes

## Communications Strategy

- Awareness Campaign to explain what YESAB does and does not do
- Print, radio & online media
- Targeted engagement with:
  - Yukon-based media, including national outlets with a presence in the Yukon
  - Yukon University
- Creation of plain language material that explains both YESAB and YESAA, as well as DO, EC and panel processes

## Yukon First Nation Relations

- Continued engagement with Yukon First Nations and Yukon Transboundary Indigenous Groups
- YESAB Attendance at YFN General Assemblies
- Bilateral meetings
- Community Meetings

## Panel Process

- Development of YESAB's first Panel Review is ongoing

# Organizational Effectiveness





# Yukon Water Board

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM

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# General Updates

HIGHLIGHTS OR INITIATIVES ADVANCED SINCE THE LAST PTBF

# General Updates



Key highlights or initiatives our Board and Secretariat are implementing:

- Efficiencies initiatives
  - Streamline processes during the licensing process
  - Wetland framework: guidelines and developing tools for the Board
  - Working with Government of Yukon to explore opportunities for shared guidance, e.g., reclamation and closure plan guidance and security guidance
  - Updating application forms and licencing templates for placer mining

# Community Participation in Board Processes

YUKON WATER BOARD



2024 Pan-Territorial Board Forum

# Updates on Community Participation in Board Processes



Key initiatives our Board and Secretariat are implementing/undertaking:

- Public comment period, public hearings
- Yukon Energy Corporation application for a water licence for the Whitehorse Rapids Generating Station
- Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Chapter 14 water use dispute

# Organizational Effectiveness

YUKON WATER BOARD



2024 Pan-Territorial Board Forum

# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness



Key initiatives our Board and Secretariat are implementing:

- Staffing
  - Fully staffed – and need more
  - Resourcing is a challenge
  - Technical Advisor pressures
- Modernization of records management (requested by staff)
- Waterline – online registry



# Inuvialuit Water Board

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM

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# Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM

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# General Updates

HIGHLIGHTS OR INITIATIVES  
ADVANCED SINCE THE LAST  
PTBF



# General Updates

## Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley



Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board  
Sahtu Land and Water Board  
Gwich'in Land and Water Board  
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board

January 2022



# General Updates



## **Key External initiatives the LWBs are implementing are:**

- Developing an implementation plan for updated securities worksheet for permits
- Updated Engagement and Consultation Policy and updating Engagement Guidelines
- Developing Compensation Guidelines, Claim Form, and Outline of General Board Process for Considering Claims
- Updating Rules of Procedure
- Updating Standard Land Use Permit Conditions Template (Standard Water Licence Conditions Template updated in 2023, available online)

# General Updates



## **Key Internal initiatives the LWBs are implementing are:**

- Developing Orientation Manual for new Board members and staff
- Establishment of a joint LWB/MVRB Outreach Team
- Updating Employee Policies and Procedures Manual

# Community Participation in Board Processes



# Updates on Community Participation in Board Processes

## Key initiatives the LWBs are implementing are:

- SLWB Community Visits, meeting with Highschoolers and Open House events in the Sahtu Communities Yearly with the SLUPB
- SLWB/SLUPB hires Fort Good Hope Highschool grads for summer work (1-2 people a year)
- Two of the WLWB's monthly Board meetings held in communities each year
- Supporting parties to attend technical sessions and public hearings
- Hiring a shared Community Liaison for the Gwich'in Settlement Area
- Community Supper and pop-up engagement sessions while in communities for other events
- SNP Training in communities



# Organizational Effectiveness



# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

Key initiatives the LWBs are implementing are:

## Governance

- ENVISIO software for a shared LWB Strategic Plan
- MVLWB Governance Policies
- Chairs and EDs' Committee meetings
- LWB & MVEIRB meetings

## Human Resources

- LWB Employee Policies and Procedures Manual
- Shared ATIP Coordinator & Federal Reporting
- Shared Human Resource Manager (LWBs and MVEIRB)
- Regulatory Manager position

# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

## Key initiatives the LWBs are implementing are:

Information and Communications Technology

- Sharepoint Online & Office 365
- Cyber Simulations, Multifactor Authentication
- Facebook, Drupal multi-site platform
- Amazon Cloud Service

Cultural Awareness, Sensitivity, and Competency

- Board Member Video Bios
- Annual on-the-land retreat with Board members and staff
- Onboarding requires completion of LW2G
- Indigenous Flower Beading Series

# Internal Board Updates (cont)



# Updates from EA & Land and Water Boards

MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD  
INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM

OCTOBER 29 – 31, 2024

WHITEHORSE, YT

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# General Updates

HIGHLIGHTS OR INITIATIVES ADVANCED SINCE THE LAST PTBF

# General Updates

Key highlights or initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- EA Initiation Guideline (aka Guideline for an optional pathway for major projects to enter environmental assessment)
- Updates to website
- Reference bulletins:
  - Consultation and engagement in environmental impact assessment
  - Government participation in environmental assessment
  - Designated regulatory agencies
  - Shorter EAs
  - Confidential Information



# Community Participation in Board Processes

# Updates on Community Participation in Board Processes

*The morning session includes an opportunity to share updates and learning from one another on **Community Participation in Board Processes**. We invite you to profile the work you have advanced on this topic over the last year.*

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Community Liaisons
- Manager of Indigenous Outreach, Engagement and Partnerships
- Community sessions for Mackenzie Valley Highway EA
- Indigenous language policies and procedures + Traditional Knowledge facilitation training

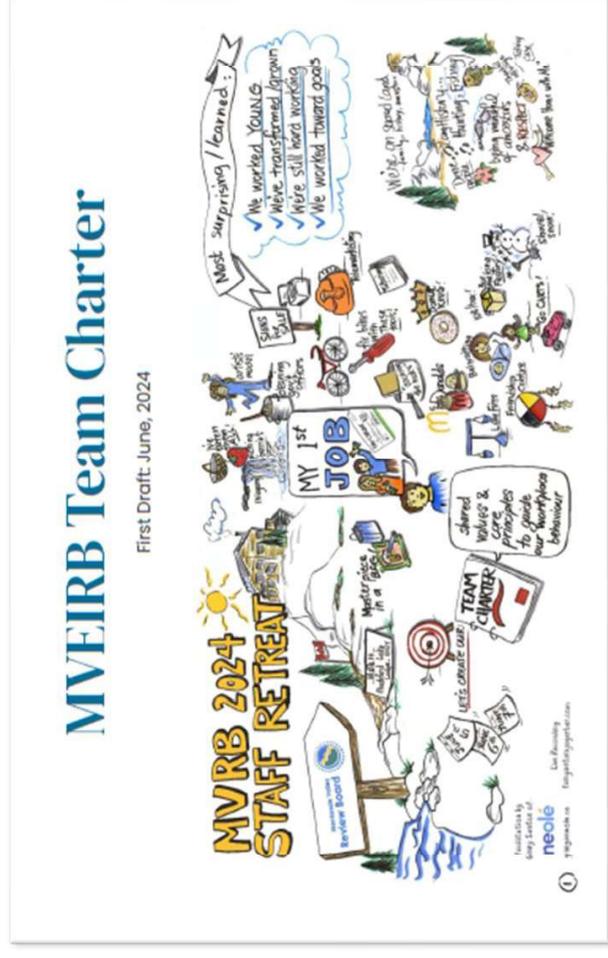
# Organizational Effectiveness

# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

*The morning session on Day 1 includes an opportunity to share updates and learning from one another on **Organizational Effectiveness** (e.g., as it relates to organizational practices such as hiring, recruitment, retention, or other organizational practices). We invite you to profile the work you have advanced on this topic over the last year.*

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Joint HR Manager with Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Boards
- Team Charter Development?
- Nakanagis





# Nunavut Water Board (NWB)

INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM

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# General Updates

HIGHLIGHTS OR INITIATIVES ADVANCED SINCE THE LAST PTBF

# General Updates

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Pre-consulting stage for developing the Nunavut Water Management Strategy
  - Partnering with Regional Inuit Associations to plan engagement
- Updates to the Nunavut Water Board's Public Guides
  - Public Guide 1 – Introduction
  - Public Guide 2 – Processing an application
  - Public Guide 3 – Managing a Licence
- Updates to the Nunavut Water Board's Technical Guides in the works
- Preliminary planning stages for the complete overhaul of the NWB's online registry

# Community Participation in Board Processes

# Updates on Community Participation in Board Processes

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Community participation remains an integral part of the Board's Licensing process
- Using technology to improve simultaneous interpretation
- Hosting secondary hubs in alternate communities to expand participation
- Involving the Regional Inuit Associations to increase effectiveness

# Organizational Effectiveness

# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Strategic plan to include IQ in decision making
- Hiring of Cultural Coordinator to bring Inuit culture into the office



# Nunavut Impact Review Board

NIRB  
INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION TO THE 2024 PAN-TERRITORIAL BOARD FORUM  
OCTOBER 29 – 31, 2024  
WHITEHORSE, YT

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# General Updates

HIGHLIGHTS OR INITIATIVES ADVANCED SINCE THE LAST PTBF

# General Updates

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)



Key highlights or initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Projects Update – Major projects – 64 screenings so far this year (15 still active which is higher than usual), 1 major project amendment which suspended prior to any in-person meetings, monitoring of 8 major projects (increase in exploration activity, limited changes to major projects)
- Implementing 2023-2027 Strategic Plan – Updating companion document: Operational Strategic Plan
- Updates-
  - Nunavut Marine Council Strategic Plan (Workshop Jan 2025)
  - Internal policies and procedures including operational and governance policies with associated accountability reports
  - Emergency Response Plan
  - IQ principles in every-day work
  - Annual Reports on track – update streamline process.
  - Board Appointment Update
  - Expanding Office Space in Cambridge Bay



# General Updates

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

Key highlights or initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- Look forward
- Branding Update
- Transboundary strategy and MOUs (to be discussed day 3 – stay tuned!) (currently NIRB methodology/approach to transboundary internally) next steps cooperative approach to development with transboundary/overlap jurisdictions and consideration for devolution
- Draft MOU with Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB) and Eeyou Marine Region Impact Review Board (EMRIRB)
- Draft MOU CER

### Priority

- **Confirmation of 10-year funding agreement**



# Community Participation in Board Processes

# Updates on Community Participation in Board Processes

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

- **Standardized Impact Statement (IS) Guidelines** and several guidance documents under development including: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), Socio-Economic Toolkit, Public Engagement Guide.
- Timelines delayed given capacity challenges and changes in senior leadership. (Over 50% of staff have less than a year of service)
- Ensuring process transparent/accountable for development
- New timeline is end fiscal year.
- Ongoing updated to **Rules of Procedure** (2009)
- Post covid realities
- Nunavut Planning and Project assessment Act
- Internally tracking feedback and incorporation in ROP or other guidance or policy documents
- Devolution and Overlap agreements (pending)
- Monitoring updates/Community visit standard work operations (pre covid) and working with CIRNAC on how enforcement looks.
- Increase community and support de-centralization of operation looking at Regional Offices/Remote Telework
- Hubs - Starlink game changer



# Organizational Effectiveness

# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

Operationally:

- Starlink
- improved video teleconferencing meeting support
- “hub” supporting remote participation in NIRB processes
- moving internal systems to the cloud to support operations (i.e., potential for satellite offices, telework)
- Intranet in progress moving to the cloud
- Bamboo HR links to mobile access
- 2025 – updating financial software
- NIRB leaning towards consistency and streamlining across NIRB operational IT systems
- Challenges with long term viability of current Public Registry – Enterprise Management System (EMS)



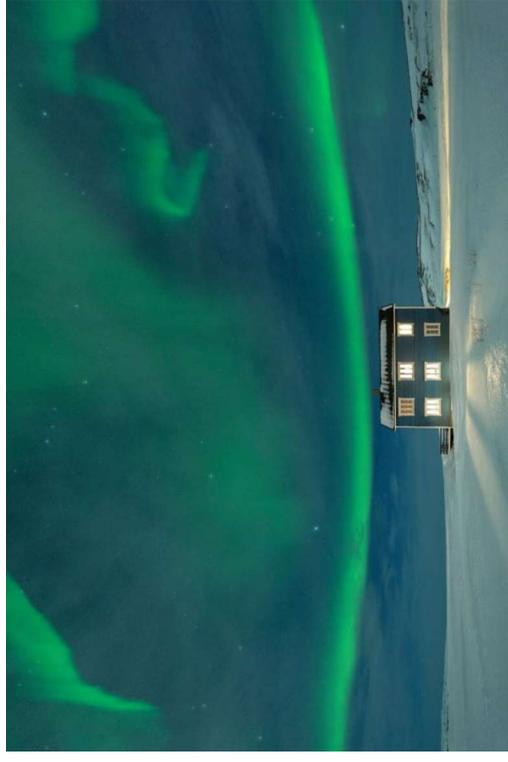
# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

Key initiatives our Board is implementing are:

### Staffing/Recruitment/Retention

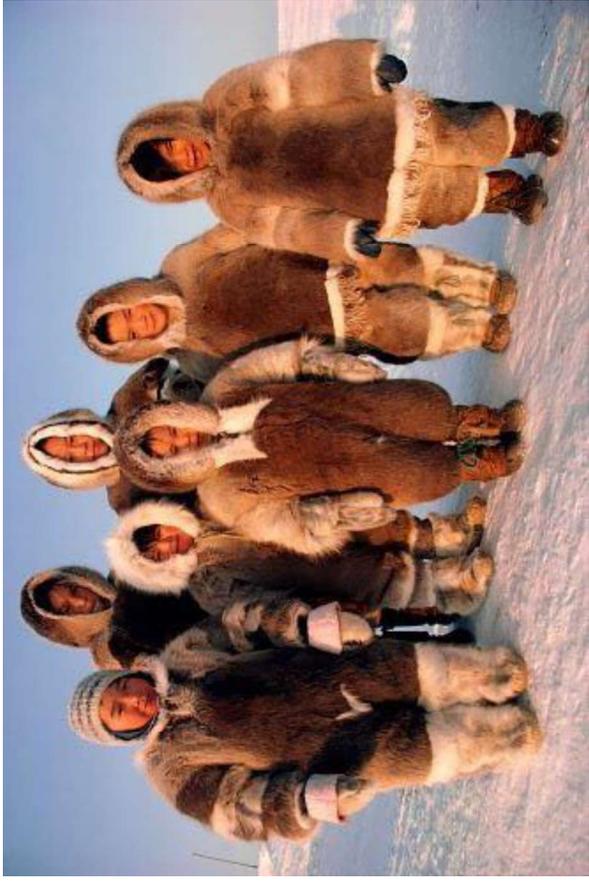
- Staffing Update – new org chart
- Recent/ hires (11/27 new hires since May; transitioning of position to accommodate new org chart)
- Updated benefits to address Maternity and Paternal leave.
- Challenge: housing



# Updates on Organizational Effectiveness

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

- Looking forward:
  - Importance of “new ”work environment opportunities post covid - telework, flexible or modified work hours/work week
  - Prioritizing staff training (general, ‘tidbits’ IQ reflections, cultural sensitivity, project management, HSE, GIS, organizational depth)
  - Develop long term succession plan
  - New HR Manager for support and development of HR Bamboo systems, Training plans, updating outdated performance standards
  - Translator Interpreter Opportunities
  - Casual/temporary employees – summer students next year



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# Privacy and Information Collection

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

### Current practice:

- Up to date on reporting
- Monthly proactive disclosure reporting (Website) form developed in house with consultation with “Secretariate”
- Upload requests received monthly to Canada.ca
- Annual reporting 2023/24 completed

### Challenges:

- Need clarity on long term maintenance of documentation for public registry (Archives) standards for document retention (i.e., personnel, notes, emails, public registry)
- Deletion or disposal documents requires Office Information Commissioner (OIC) approval. Process? Timelines? Standards?
- Capacity to QA/QC ATIP requests
- One outstanding Access to Information Request (2020) – final stages
- Benefits for NIRB to have access to Canada School of public servants – training opportunities (info sessions, training documents and resources) .



# Proceedings (hearings and panel processes)

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)



### Pre-regulatory improvements

- Challenges – Participant funding “boundary limits”
- Part 6 Review – ROP do not apply unless agreement that they will (so as not to fetter discretion of potential panel membership)
  - Potential triggers for shared borders and resources (i.e., 3 plus)
- Modification requests process “significant modification” completely in discretion of NIRB – fit for purpose. (i.e. elimination TM/PHC) NIRB developed transparent process (i.e. table) to provide “certainty”.

### Decolonizing proceedings (IQ informing our processes)

- Language of choice
- Oral testimony from the knowledge holders not just at hearing but at any stage of public engagement on a project
- IQ experts for guidance documentation development



# Devolution

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

- Timeline for NIRB to devolve to GN is not set under the current agreement.
- NWB and NSRT first ones



# **Crown Consultation: Shared Obligations and Evolving Department Roles**

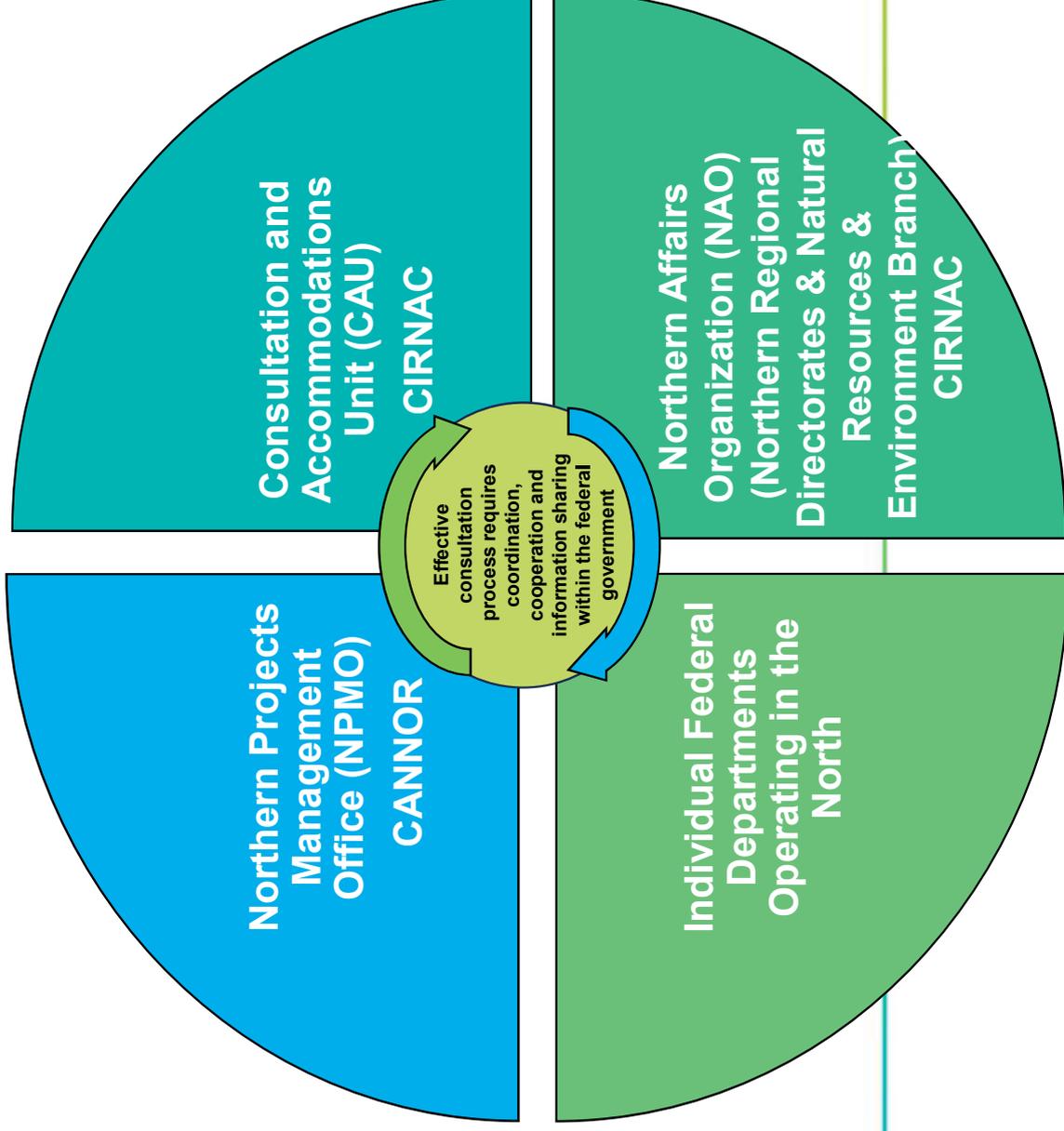
**2024 Pan-Territorial Board Forum (PTBF)**

**Whitehorse, YT – October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**



**Canada**

# Crown Consultation in the North- Key Players



# Crown Consultation in the North- Key Players

Consultation and  
Accommodations Unit (CAU)  
CIRNAC

## CROWN CONSULTATION APPROACH – FEDERAL LEAD

- Leads federal whole of government approach to federal Crown Consultation
- Tools, guidance, advice, training to All Federal Departments
  - provides expert consultation advice – northern major projects
- Co-develops Consultation arrangements with Northern Indigenous Groups and/or Territorial Government/s (non-project specific)
- Facilitate partnerships & collaboration, improve C&A processes and foster ongoing information exchange.

Environment Branch  
CIRNAC

# Crown Consultation in the North- Key Players

## MAJOR PROJECTS COORDINATION & SUPPORT ONLY (Northern EA/Regulatory)

- **COORDINATION** – coordinates federal departments participation – EA and \*Regulatory.
- **CONVENING** – Brings together proponents Territorial/Indigenous Gov'ts and other orgs in understanding and navigation of Northern Regulatory systems.
- **CONSULTATION** – Acts as the Federal Crown Consultation Coordinator for major projects in the three territories.

Northern Projects Management  
Office (NPMO)  
CANNOR

Environment Branch  
CIRNAC

Canada

# Crown Consultation in the North- Key Players

## NORTHERN AFFAIRS ISSUES – FEDERAL LEAD

- **Federal liaison for Northern Affairs and issues**
- **Responsible for Federal Resource Legislation and Regulations and Implementation** (YESAA, MVMRA, NuPPPA, etc.)
  - Regulatory amendments/ reviews
  - Policy – Environment and Resource Management
  - Northern Regulatory Efficiency- advance clear, trusted and functional regulatory regimes in the North
  - CIRNAC participation in EAs/regulatory reviews, and making decision recommendations to Minister (including consideration of whether s.35 Duty has been met)
- **Supports meaningful participation in Northern impact assessments in Major Projects Reviews** (IA & some regulatory processes)
  - Manages the Northern Participant Funding Program
  - Funds Indigenous-led studies through NRI (Regional, Baseline and Cumulative effects studies)

Northern Affairs Organization  
(NAO) (Northern Regional  
Directorates & Natural Resources  
& Environment Branch)  
CIRNAC

# Crown Consultation in the North- Key Players

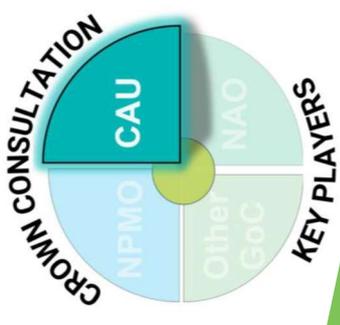
## DECISION MAKERS – RESPONSIBLE TO MEET CONSULTATION OBLIGATIONS

- **Plans, participates in and/or leads consultation activities** (including assessment and regulatory-phase)
  - Responsible to fund own consultation activities
  - Federal Departments may sit on NPMOs Project Specific Federal Working Groups
- **Makes decisions on projects when empowered** in areas within their mandate/jurisdiction.
- **Develops a departmental/agency wide approach to consultation**

Individual Federal Departments  
Operating in the North (including  
CIRNAC)

Environment Branch  
CIRNAC

# Consultation and Accommodation Unit



## Whole of Government Approach to Consultation

### Consultation and Accommodation Unit- CIRNAC

#### Consultation Tools

**Consultation Protocols with Indigenous Groups**

*Signed by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on behalf of Canada*

**Consultation & Information Sharing MOUs with Territorial Governments**

**Indigenous Consultation Resource Centres**

#### Systems

**Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS)**  
*internal and external to GoC versions*

#### Guidance

Legal and Policy

Guidelines for Federal Officials

Consultation Advice on North of 60 Major Projects

Regional tailored advice and guidance

Training for Federal Officials

Single Window Services

#### Coordination and Partnership Development

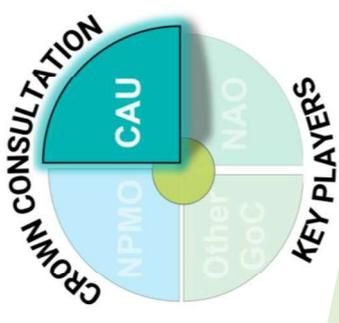
Coordination on Major Resource Projects- South of 60

Regional Partnerships Teams- facilitate partnerships & collaboration, improve C&A processes

NCR and Regional Interdepartmental Consultation Networks

Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial Working Group

# Consultation and Accommodation Unit



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Coordination and Partnership Development

Coordination on Major Resource Projects- South of 60

## Consultation Tools

- Consultation Protocols with Indigenous Groups**  
*Signed by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on behalf of Canada*
- Consultation & Coordination & Information Sharing MOUs with Territorial Governments**
- Indigenous Consultation Resource Centres**

## Coordination and Partnership Development

- Coordination on Major Resource Projects- South of 60
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# Consultation and Accommodation Unit

## Systems

**Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS)**  
*internal and external to GoC versions*

### Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System

TEXT SEARCH: Enter your search criteria (a word, words, r

Legend Content Results

**Geographic Search Results**

- Communities (235)
- Organizations (2)
- Reserve Lands (63)
- Treaty and Agreement (25)
- Claim and Assertion (34)
- Court Case and Decision (11)

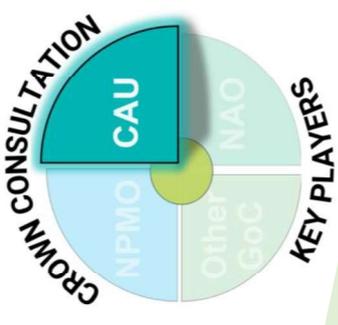
LOCATION SEARCH: Enter a location to

Search Visible Area

Map Tools

The screenshot displays the ATRIS web application interface. On the left, a search bar is partially visible with the text 'TEXT SEARCH: Enter your search criteria (a word, words, r'. Below it, a 'Legend' tab is active, showing a list of search results: 'Geographic Search Results' with sub-categories: 'Communities (235)', 'Organizations (2)', 'Reserve Lands (63)', 'Treaty and Agreement (25)', 'Claim and Assertion (34)', and 'Court Case and Decision (11)'. To the right, a map of the Northwest Territories is shown, overlaid with various colored lines and markers representing the search results. The map includes geographical features like 'Amundsen Gulf', 'McVillie Hills', and 'Victoria Island'. A search bar at the top of the map area says 'LOCATION SEARCH: Enter a location to'. A 'Search Visible Area' button is also present. The map interface includes standard navigation tools like 'Zoom', 'Home', and 'Measure'. The bottom right corner of the map area shows coordinates '57.901 -133.880' and a scale bar for '300 km'. The text 'Powered by Esri' is visible in the bottom right corner of the map area.

# Consultation and Accommodation Unit



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## CIRNAC

### Guidance

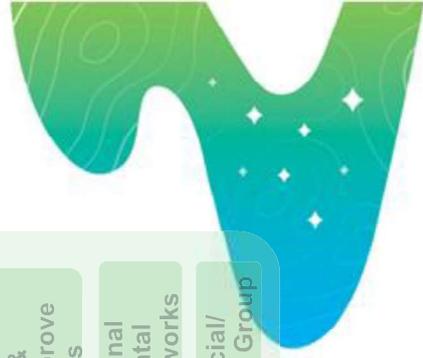
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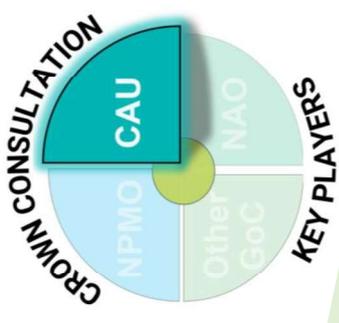
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# Consultation and Accommodation Unit



## IRNAC

### Coordination and Partnership Development

Coordination on Major Resource Projects- South of 60

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## Consultation

### Consultation Tools

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*Signed by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations on behalf of Canada*

Consultation & Coordination & Information Sharing MOUs with Territorial Governments

Indigenous Consultation Resource Centres



# What is the CAU's role in Consultation North of 60 and in Impact Assessment Consultations?

## **WE:**

- Provide regionally tailored advice, guidance and training
- Negotiate collaborative agreements (MOU's and Protocols)
- Develop consistent consultation and accommodation approaches
- Facilitate partnerships and relationships & Lead Regional Federal Indigenous Consultation Networks (interdepartmental WG)
- **LEAD** GOC efforts/discussions on improving C & A processes and approaches and/or **ASSISTS** NPMO in working more jointly with territorial governments and aligning consultation processes and activities
- Sits on most NPMO Project specific federal working groups to provide expert advice and guidance on consultation issues and approaches.

## **WE DO NOT:**

- Provide oversight on federal consultations (including CIRNACs)
- Plan, coordinate, conduct or participate in consultations
- Develop, lead or implement "project-specific" consultation protocols
- Evaluate scope, nature and sufficiency of Crown consultation efforts for federal departments
- Fund or coordinate funding of federal Crown Consultations

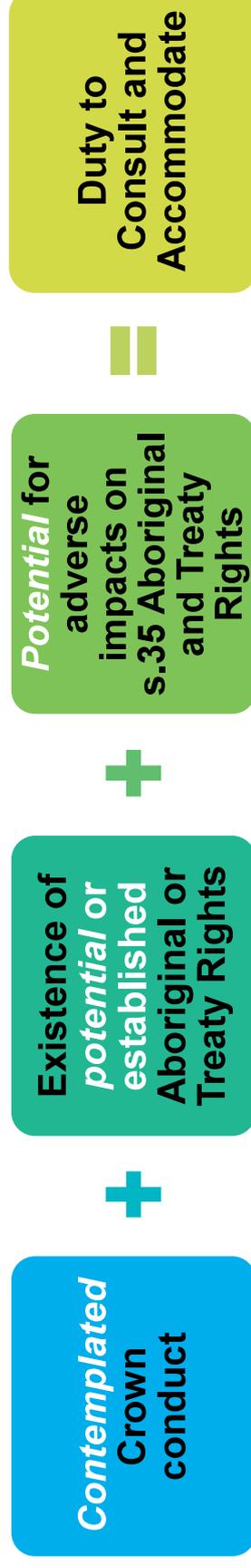


# Indigenous Consultation and S.35 Duty to Consult

## Why does the Crown consult with Indigenous Groups?

- Reconciliation and respect of s.35 Aboriginal Rights
- More informed and appropriate decisions for all
- Legislative requirements (YESAA, MVMRA, NIRB etc)
- Statutory/Agreements/Treaties
- Good Governance/Policy
- Duty to Consult on s.35 rights

## s.35 Common Law Duty to consult - at a glance:



# Indigenous Consultation and S.35 Duty to Consult

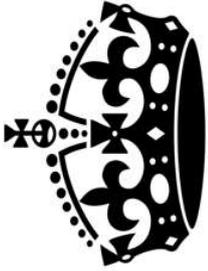
Why does the Crown consult with Indigenous Groups?

- Reconciliation and respect for s.35 Aboriginal Rights
- More informed and appropriate decisions for all
- Duty to Consult on s.35 rights

**Contemplated  
Crown conduct**

s.35 Common Law Duty





# Who has the duty to consult?

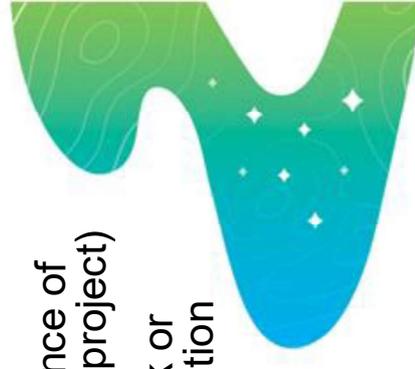
## EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOV

**Federal**      **Prov/Terr**

Canada and each Provincial & territorial government bears their own separate consultation obligation in areas of their jurisdiction and authority.

**Industry**  No duty to consult but the Crown can rely on their engagement, information gathered & accommodations with Indigenous peoples to help discharge the Crown's duty.

- **Crown Conduct:** Any Crown action or decision that may adversely effect potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights. It can include strategic planning, funding and other kinds of decision-making.
- Potentially any Crown action or decision can trigger a duty, where it may adversely effect potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights:
  - **Crown initiatives** (e.g. land disposals, creation of a park, policy development etc.)
  - **Crown approval of third party activities** (e.g. issuance of a YESAA decision document; issuance of regulatory approvals, or funding of a third-party project)
  - **Strategic Planning** (e.g. development of a park or forest management plan, selection of a remediation option for a contaminated site)



# Indigenous Consultation and S.35 Duty to Consult

Why does the Crown consult with Indigenous Groups?

- Reconciliation s.35 Aboriginal
- More informed decisions for a

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**Existence of potential or established Aboriginal or Treaty Rights**

**Potential for adverse impacts on s.35 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**

**Contemplated Crown conduct**



**Duty to Consult and Accommodate**



# Preliminary Consultation Assessment

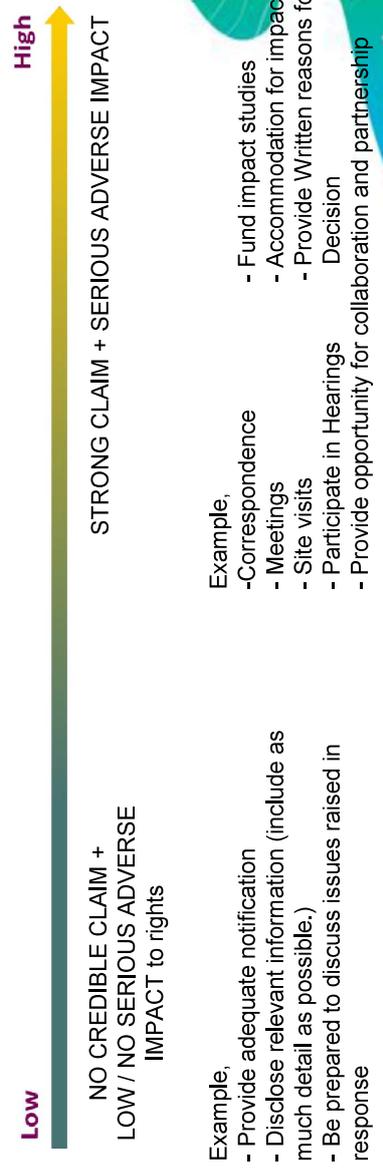
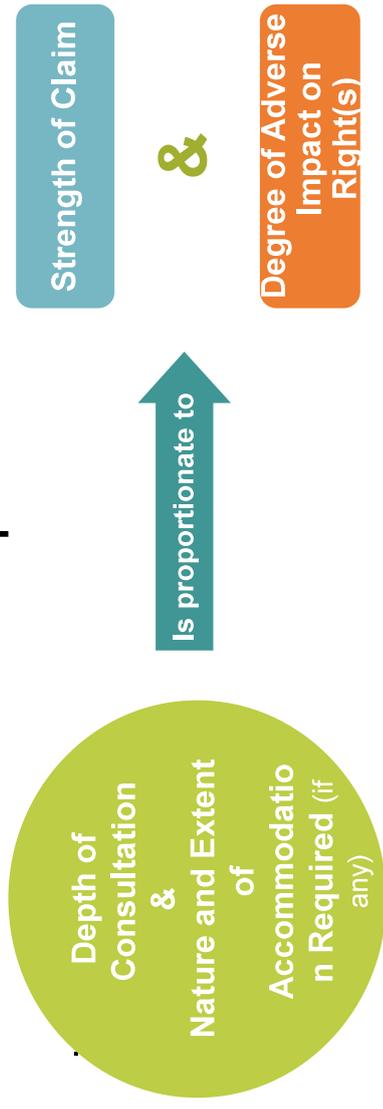
## Aboriginal Rights and Potential Impacts

**QUESTIONS AT PLAY**

*“Which Indigenous Groups are in project area and what rights may exist?”*

**+**

*“Could the contemplated Crown conduct adversely impact s.35 rights, if so, how?”*



 Use ATRIS to find out which Group has asserted/ established rights in what area



# Duty to consult and board processes



- The Crown can use and rely on board processes to assist in the assessment of adverse impacts on rights and accommodation, where appropriate. (*Clyde River (Hamlet) v Petroleum Geo Services Inc.*, 2017 SCC 40)
- The Crown can also rely on conditions imposed on proponents in the regulatory context as accommodation measures, to the extent that the measures respond to adverse impacts and the concerns of Indigenous groups.
- The Crown, however, is ultimately responsible for fulfilling its duty to consult in each circumstance, and must be mindful of the extent to which it can rely on a regulatory process for this purpose.
- Crown must actively monitor and participate in the process and be diligent in identifying and filling any gaps that may exist in the information that was gathered and analyzed.
- If Crown intends to rely on any process it MUST notify any/all affected Indigenous group/s in writing of the Crown's intent to rely on the process to fulfill its s.35 duty to consult.



# Reliance on board processes

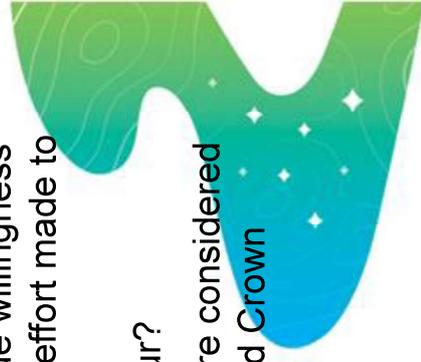
- **Whether Canada can rely**, in whole or in part, on an existing process will depend on the circumstances. **It is essential to determine:**
  - Does the agency/board possess the correct legislative authority and legal capacity to provide an appropriate level of consultation and accommodation in the given circumstances?
  - If the process is completed, was it comprehensive enough for Canada to meet its consultation obligations? To what extent can Canada rely on the process to fulfill its duty? It might be that additional consultation is required.
  - If the process is being planned, can officials from the different levels of government jointly develop a consultation plan to support the achievement of meaningful consultation? Are there divergence of approaches that would refrain the implementation of a joint consultation plan?
  - Was consultation meaningful and did it support an open dialogue with the Indigenous communities? Was the information obtained through consultation validated by Indigenous groups? This is directly linked to the adequacy of the consultation process.
- While relying on another process can support alleviating consultation fatigue, it can also involve supplemental consultation efforts if the scope and depth of consultation were not enough for Canada to discharge its duty to consult.

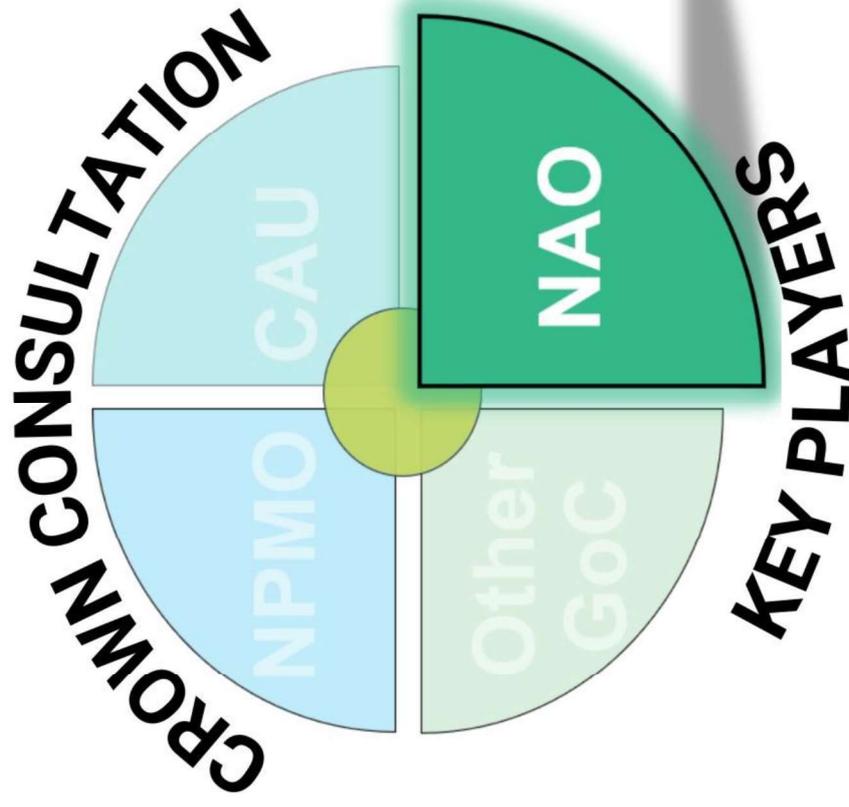


# MEANINGFUL CONSULTATION

## Meaningful Consultation Indicators

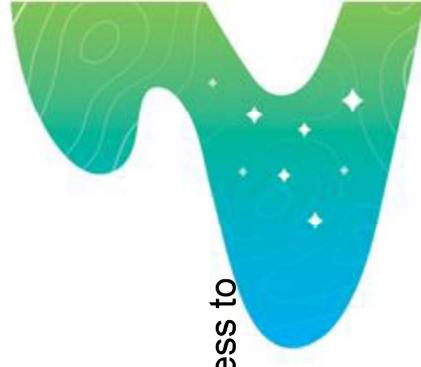
- **TIME:** early, adequate and flexible timelines? Was all info provided early and with adequate time to review? Were answers/responses to Qs done within a timely manner? Time given to listen to what is important to Indigenous Group?
- **RELEVANT AND SUFFICIENT INFORMATION:** Was relevant & sufficient information given?
- **ADAPTABLE:** Crown cannot finalize its decision or pre-determine the outcome of the consultation process before consulting; it must remain open & responsive to new information and perspectives and adapting response accordingly.
- **RESPONSIVE:** Did you ensure that a meaningful two-way dialogue occurred? Analysis and written reasons shared?
- **ACCESSIBLE:** Did the Crown facilitate understanding of the activity and potential impacts in an accessible way? Indigenous communities have an opportunity to make submissions for the Crown's consideration in preferred way? Did the Crown facilitate participation in a way that appropriately responds to any capacity needs?
- **GOOD FAITH, RESPECT:** Did the process respect the uniqueness of each community? Was there a true willingness to understand and address issues and an intention to substantially address the concerns? Was serious effort made to obtain consent?
- **OPPORTUNITIES for INVOLVEMENT:** Did formal participation in Crown Decision-making process occur?
- **TRANSPARENT and FAIR:** Provided reasons for Crown decisions? Did Crown show how concerns were considered and can demonstrate how they were integrated into decision? If any accommodations were rejected...did Crown explain?





# CIRNAC Northern Affairs

- Responsible for matters relating to Yukon, the NWT or Nunavut and their resources and affairs; and to policies, directives and programs with respect to the Canadian North.
- Includes, working through regional offices and 4 branches:
  - ✓ the coordination of the activities of agencies, boards, and GoC departments in the territories;
  - ✓ the development and implementation of policies and programs to promote the social and economic development of the territories; and
  - ✓ fostering, through scientific research and technology, knowledge of the Canadian North and the taking of various measures to support its development.
- **Natural Resources and Environment Branch:**
  - ✓ contributes to regulatory resource management and decisions in the North
  - ✓ co-develops the Indigenous Climate Leadership Agenda
  - ✓ supports Indigenous knowledge and science research-informed decisions
  - ✓ actively promotes coordination of federal programming and improving Indigenous/ northern access to funding



# Regulatory Initiatives

- Critical Minerals Strategy
- Northern Regulatory Initiative
- Cabinet Directive on Clean Growth

# Funding Programs

- Northern Participatory Funding Program
- Funding available to Boards or Communities



# Critical Minerals Strategy (CMS)

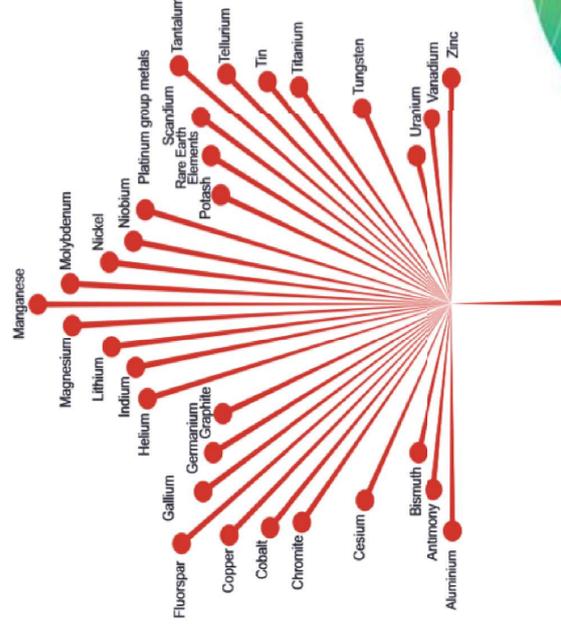
- NRCan lead, \$3.8 billion over 8 years (announced Budget '22)

- 5 core objectives:

- Support economic growth, competitiveness and job creation
- Promote climate action and environmental protection
- Advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
- Foster diverse and inclusive workforces and communities
- Enhance global security and partnerships with allies

- CMS initiatives in the North include:

- Northern Regulatory Initiative (NRI)
- Regional Energy and Resource Tables (RERTs)
- Critical Minerals Infrastructure Fund (CMIF)
- Indigenous Natural Resources Partnerships Program (INRP)

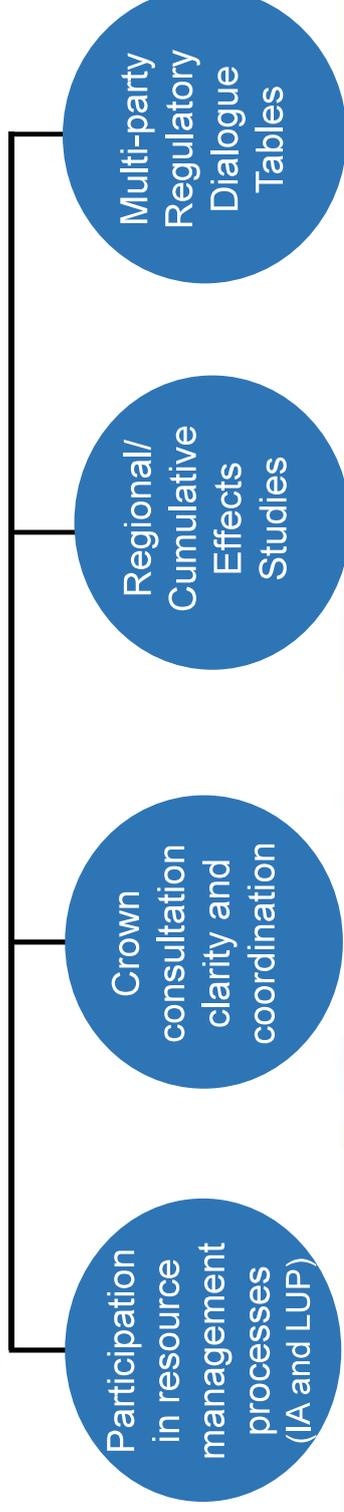


Additional CM as of 2024: high-purity iron, phosphorus, and silicon metal

# Northern Regulatory Initiative (NRI)

- CIRNAC lead, with CanNor support
- Aims to advance key elements of the systems that have been identified as regulatory challenges; objective is clear, trusted, functional regulatory regimes that reflect and respect the contexts in each territory
- \$40 million over 7 years (starting 2023/24)

To accomplish the objectives of the CMS and NRI, resources will be used to work with governments, partners, rights holders, and stakeholders in each of the three territories to advance four areas:



# Northern Regulatory Initiative cont.

- Some examples of activities under the NRI include:
  - Leveraging the Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue in the NWT to support multi-party dialogue forums
  - Launching a pilot program to support Indigenous-led cumulative effects and baseline studies in Yukon
  - Supporting early development of the Slave Geological Province Regional Study in NWT
  - Supporting Inuit and First Nations participation in reviewing the Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan



# Northern Elements of Regulatory Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects

- In June 2024, the Ministerial Working Group on Regulatory Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects released [\*Building Canada's Clean Future: A plan to modernize federal assessment and permitting processes to get clean growth projects built faster\*](#) (“the Action Plan”).
- Northern-specific approaches are recognized throughout the Action Plan:
  - Ongoing actions undertaken under the Northern Regulatory Initiative, such as the advancement of regional, baseline, and cumulative effects studies (Actions 2.4, 4.2) and leveraging existing dialogues to collaborate on regulatory actions (Action 4.1);
  - CanNor-specific elements for consultation and reg coordination – Actions 1.2, 3.1, 4.2
- NAO/CanNor sensitizing the Regulatory Efficiency Action Council (REAC) to the fact that transformative change looks different in the North.



# Unlocking the North's Clean Growth Potential

-  **Budget 2024 and Action Plan Measure 4.1** commit CIRNAC and CanNor to: *Engage Northern Premiers, Indigenous governments, industry, and other partners to **discuss transformative changes to their unique northern project review frameworks, to ensure the North is also prepared to assess and build clean growth projects.***
-  **Transformative change in the North is:** collaborative, place-based, context-specific, builds on existing structures and partnerships, and will look different for every project.
-  **Enabling factors to unlock clean growth projects will vary according to site-specific needs and requires holistic intergovernmental collaboration and strategic investment.**



# CIRNAC's Northern Participant Funding Program

- Established in 2018 with a successful first five years; renewed and expanded for five more years (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2028)
- Primary focus is supporting Indigenous governments and organizations, and northerners to meaningfully participate in **impact assessment** processes established under land claims agreements in Canada's three territories; funding is for **large, complex or controversial resource development or regional infrastructure projects** (i.e., "major" projects)
- **No strength of claim analysis**



# CIRNAC Northern Participant Funding Program

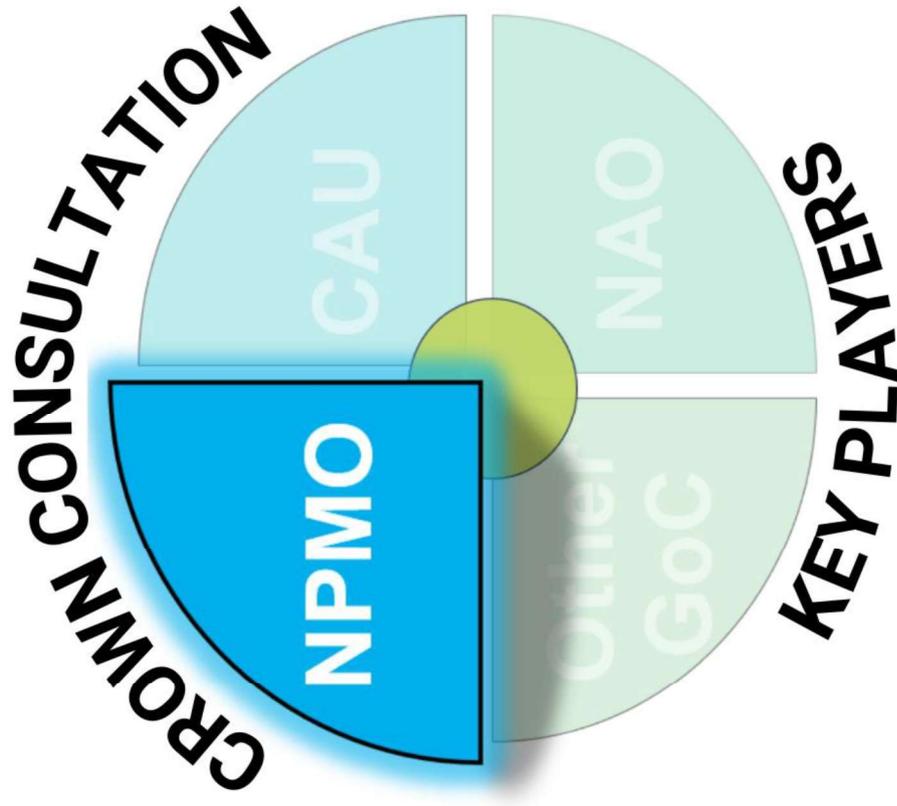
- Dedicated funding streams are now:
  - ✓ Impact Assessments
  - ✓ **Certain Regulatory Processes (Water Licenses with Hearings)**
  - ✓ **Non-Project Specific Capacity Building (Indigenous only)**
  - ✓ **Panel Funding (Yukon – Casino)**
- Current funding level: \$15.8 million over 5 years
  - **\$150,000 cap per recipient, per project, per year**
  - Challenging to forecast funding needs over the year and across territories, especial with unpredictability that comes with regulatory processes (timing, referrals)



# Other Funding for Boards or Communities

- CIRNAC's core and supplementary funding for Boards (treaty obligations, led by CIRNAC's Implementation Sector)
- Federal and/or territorial support for Indigenous governments and organizations, e.g.:
  - ✓ Nunavut Agreement contract renewal
  - ✓ GNWT's Interim Resource Management Assistance
  - ✓ CIRNAC's FN YESAA implementation funding
  - ✓ NRCan's participant funding to engage in CMS-RERT tables)
- Capacity support such as secondments (e.g. NRI support for secondments from LWBs)

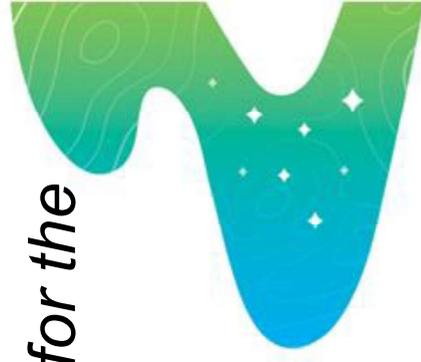




# NPMO - Mandate

**NPMO is responsible for** “coordinating the work of federal regulatory departments and agencies during environmental assessment and permitting phases of northern project development, and for coordinating a process of early engagement and consultations with [Indigenous] people and communities.”

**NPMO will** “maintain the official Crown consultation record for the Government of Canada for all northern projects.”



# NPMO – The Three C’s

## 1) Coordination

NPMO coordinates federal participation in environmental assessment, and regulatory review processes

## 2) Convening

NPMO brings together project proponents, territorial governments, and Indigenous governments and organizations to increase understanding and support timely and effective navigation of Northern processes

## 3) Consultation

NPMO supports the Government of Canada’s consultation with Indigenous peoples and acts as the Crown Consultation Coordinator for major projects in the territories



# NPMO

## What We Do

NPMO is the Crown Consultation Coordinator for Major Projects in the North

NPMO coordinates federal participation in environmental assessment and regulatory processes

NPMO supports Canada's Crown consultation obligations

NPMO operates in all three territories

## What We Don't Do

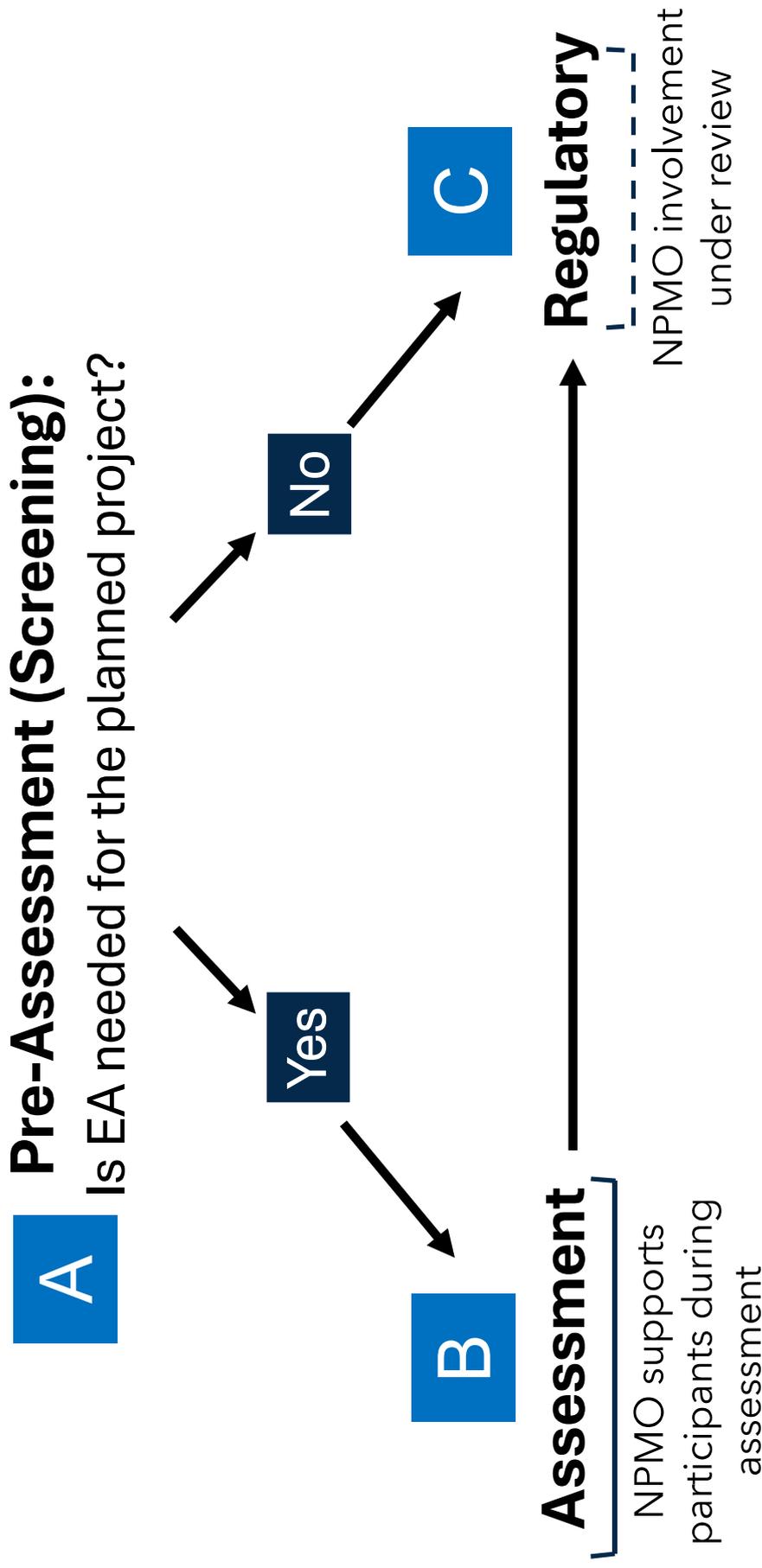
NPMO is not a decision-making authority  
NPMO does not provide funding

NPMO does not do consultation for federal departments; each department is responsible for their own consultation obligations

NPMO does not engage in negotiations related to Treaty Rights and Land Claim Agreements

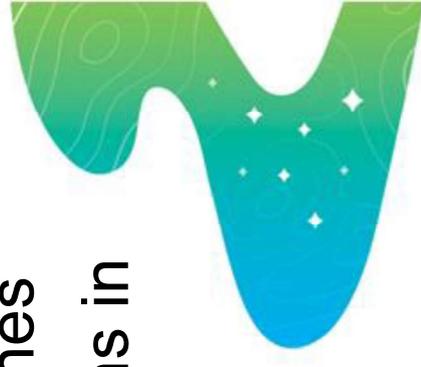


# How Does NPMO Support EA Processes?



# Case Study – Back River

- Gold Mine Operation in the Kitikmeot region of Nunavut
- Approved in 2017; NIRB determined reconsideration of submission was warranted following submission of the Back River Project Energy Centre Proposal in 2022; Board considered comments and concerns from parties
- Proposal included: wind generation facility, solar panel array, battery storage system, access roads and transmission lines
- Federal consultation with Inuit, and Métis and First Nations in NWT, Manitoba and Saskatchewan; consideration of FN traditional territories in Nunavut



# Pre-Assessment (Screening):

A

Proponent submits project to Board

1

NPMO hosts a Resource Development Advisory Group (RDAG) if requested by proponent

NPMO organizes a federal working group (FWG) that conducts preliminary assessment of potentially impacted Indigenous governments and organizations (IGOs)

Project undergoes screening

2

NPMO supports early engagement between IGOs, federal departments, and territorial governments

Project proceeds or moves to EA

3

NPMO supports early engagement between IGOs, federal departments, and territorial governments

NPMO coordinates federal participation

Assessment

# Pre-Assessment (Screening): Case Study — Back River

Proponent submits project to Board

1

Project undergoes screening

2

Project proceeds or moves to EA

3

Assessment

- Preliminary assessment built on lessons learned from Meliadine process(es)
- Athabasca Denesujiné (AD) previously voiced concerns over lack of participation in process(es), and rights in Nunavut not being recognized
- Federal departments considered connections to barren-ground caribou

- Minister Vandal responds to NIRB notice / invitation to provide direction on priorities and timelines, and participant funding
- NIRB identified five potentially impacted communities in Kitikmeot region
- Federal intent to notify Indigenous groups with connection to Bathurst and Beverly

NPMO coordinates federal participation

# Assessment (EA): B

## Pre-Assessment

Board process allows for exchange of information

4

NPMO sends notification letters to IGOs

NPMO coordinates federal participation in Board process, consultation with IGOs, and joint efforts with territorial governments

NPMO maintains Crown consultation record

Board develops final report and recommendation

5

NPMO reviews Board report and sends follow-up letter to IGOs requesting views on impacts to rights

NPMO convenes FWG meetings and supports additional consultation to assist decision-making

Final decision is made by decision-makers

6

Decision-makers (Responsible Ministers / Decision Bodies) determine consultation is complete and inform Board of their decision on the project

NPMO sends final letter on decision to IGOs

## Post-Assessment

NPMO coordinates federal participation

# Assessment (EA): Case Study — Back River

## Pre-Assessment

Board process allows for exchange of information

4

- NPMO letters include NWT, MB and SK IGOs
- NPMO/CIRNAC letter to NIRB clarifying expectations for AD participation
- AD received NPFP participant funding and attended in-person

Board develops final report and recommendation

5

- NPMO extended timeline for comments (per NSMA)
- NTI/KitiA/AD responded to NPMO's correspondence
- NPMO and CIRNAC met AD: timelines, submissions, outstanding impacts, and decision letter language

Final decision is made by decision-makers

6

- Ministerial decision letter acknowledged:
  - rights of AD in Nunavut
  - responsibilities for consideration of potential impacts of projects on those rights
  - AD involvement in project processes

## Post-Assessment

NPMO coordinates federal participation

# Regulatory (Post Assessment)

Assessment

Project subject to regulatory review process/licensing

Process ends, permits, licenses, authorizations issued

7

8

## NPMO activities limited in Regulatory

- NPMO has Crown Consultation Coordinator role upon request
- Capacity challenges; recent requests and experiences
- Clean Growth Directive influences NPMO's changing role

NPMO coordination role under review

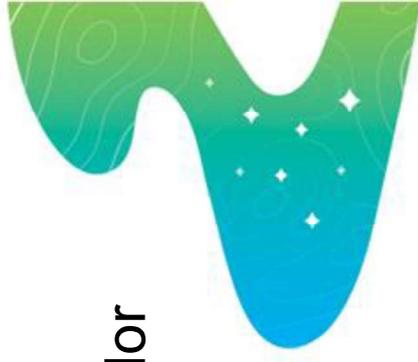
## Ongoing NPMO activities

NPMO maintains and supports relationships with Indigenous and territorial governments, federal departments, proponents and Boards through coordination, convening, and consultation activities

# The Future of NPMO in Regulatory

## Cabinet Directive on Regulatory and Permitting Efficiency for Clean Growth Projects (July 24);

- Focuses on federal efforts needed to accelerate regulatory efficiency for clean growth projects
  - Sets out a governance framework underpinned by a new Clean Growth Office, and collaboration among federal departments
- Directive specifies NPMO's regulatory role:
  - Establish a Crown Consultation Coordinator [Action 1.2] – CanNor (NPMO) will continue to coordinate federal Crown Consultation Processes for Projects under Northern impact legislation.



# Thank you



 Canada



# Transboundary

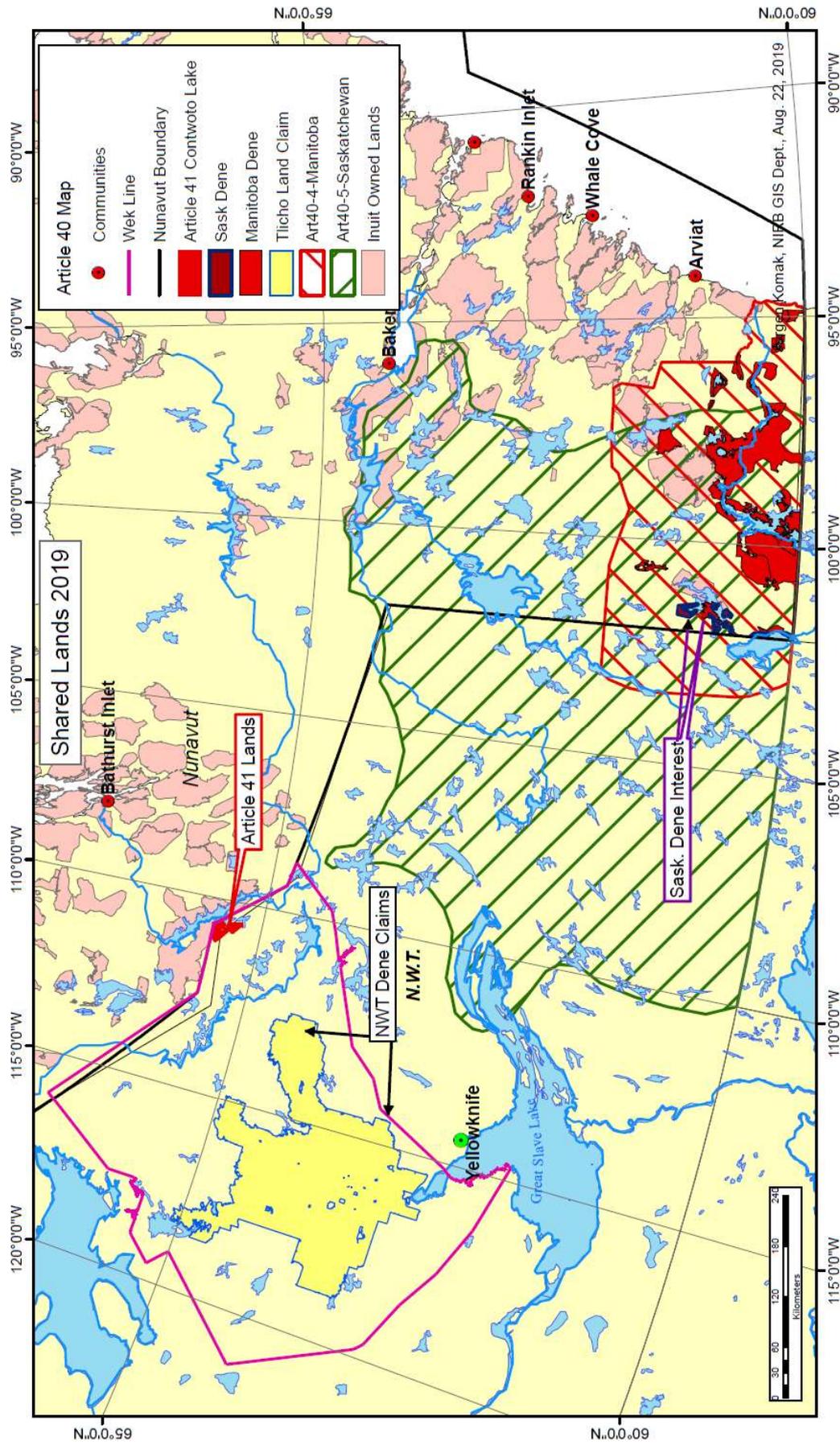
## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

### Next Steps needed to consider:

- ESPOO
- Overlap Areas
- coordination input from potentially applicable TB orgs (settles/unsettled claims)
- communication & education strategy
- Funding? Capacity?
- Direction and need for transitional provisions as legislation or agreements are amended or established



# NIRB Internal Map Re Neighboring and Overlapping Areas



Title of Presentation (To edit: Insert > Header & Footer)

# Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs)

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

### NIRB and MVEIRB (2022) MOU and companion “Implementation Plan” operational administrative document “how to” (2023)

- General structure/contents
- Implementation Plan Content:
  - Introduction and Purpose
  - Development Approach
  - Ways of Working Together: Cooperation, Coordination, Collaboration
  - Principles in Action
  - Actions to be considered in a Project Specific Cooperation Plan

Each section of the document includes “plain language summary” to support broader audience and accommodate



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN:

THE NUNAVUT IMPACT REVIEW BOARD  
AND  
THE MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD  
2022

PREVIOUS VERSIONS: 2004, 2013

# Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs)

## Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)

### NIRB and NWB MOU (2018)

- General structure/contents – preamble, general statement purpose, interpretation, objectives coordinated process, key elements of coordinated process, reporting, resource commitment, Effective date and termination statement.

### Nunavik & Eeyou Marine Areas MOU

- Draft final stages (legal review)
- General structure/contents ?

### NIRB and Canada Energy (CER) MOU

- Working Draft under revision

Other MOU as interest and support of parties needs arise.

