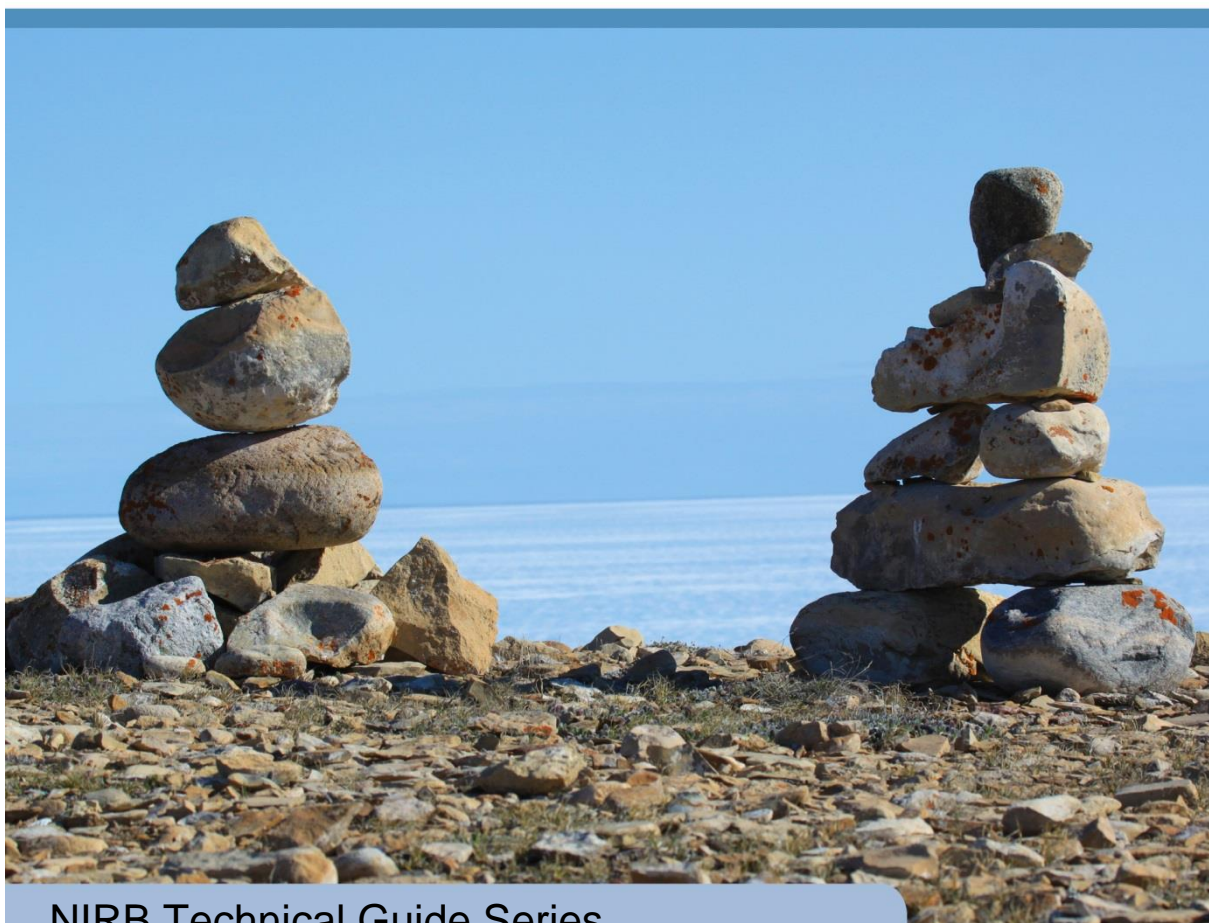


Terminology and Definitions



NIRB Technical Guide Series
December 2018



Nunavut Impact

Review Board Mission:

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

Cover photo: Inuksuit near Cambridge Bay

Photo: Sophia Granchinho

Published by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, Cambridge Bay, Nunavut

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Notes:

The abbreviations “the NIRB” and “the Board” are used interchangeably throughout this document with reference to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

Disclaimers:

This Guide is provided as a convenient reference for the general public to explain the general terminology and definitions used in the NIRB’s assessment processes in a plain language format. However, parties reviewing this Guide are reminded that this terminology and the resulting legal responsibilities of all participants in the NIRB’s processes are as established under the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *NuPPAA* and other applicable legislation and any relevant project-specific direction issued by any authorities with jurisdiction over that project. All parties are independently responsible for ensuring they confirm their understanding of the key terms and definitions necessary to comply with the applicable legal responsibilities imposed under these provisions. To the extent that this Guide or any steps outlined within it are inconsistent or in conflict with the applicable legal requirements, the obligations as set out in the *Nunavut Agreement*, the *NuPPAA* and other relevant legislation and project-specific guidance govern. Any descriptions of the responsibilities of the parties contained in this Guide are of a general nature only and are not offered or intended as a substitute for legal or other professional advice or the specific direction in any given case of the NIRB or relevant authorities with jurisdiction over a project. The NIRB also reserves the right to modify the general terminology or definitions outlined in this Guide if the specific circumstances of a given assessment process require such changes.

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A

Adaptive Management

[Gestion adaptative]

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[Aallanngulaaqtut Munariniq]

Adaptive management is a systematic and ongoing process of decision-making in the face of uncertainty, whereby initial decisions are based on existing data, with subsequent decisions following from the monitoring for potential effects, assessment of the effectiveness of the initial decisions (including assessing the effectiveness of mitigation measures) and then adjusting actions to reflect the monitoring data and the effectiveness of measures taken to minimize adverse effects. Adaptive management is a tool that provides the basis for sound environmental decision-making even in the face of uncertainty surrounding the nature and extent of effects that is often inherent at the environmental assessment stage, with the goal of reducing uncertainty over time.

For example, adaptive management may be used during monitoring or observing projects once they have obtained a project certificate. Proponents create monitoring plans and actions based on available data and information, once they begin implementing the plan and collecting additional experience or data, proponents compare this to what they initially predicted. If the data shows that what was predicted was not accurate, then the plan and associated actions would be updated to effectively address what was being observed.

Authorization

[Autorisation]

[ᐱᐃᐅᓴᐅᓴᐅᓴᐅᓴ]

[Aulattitiningit]

Any approval, permit, licence, lease, certificate, or other written communication that is required to allow a project or a component of a project to proceed.

Authorizing Agency

[Organisme autorisé]

[ᐱᓪᓴᐱᓄᓐ ᐱᓪᓴᓄᓐ ᐱᓪᓴᓄᓐ]

[Aulattitiyangit Ikayuqtuq]

A government agency, Designated Inuit Organization or any other body that has the authority to issue a permit, lease, licence or grant approval to a Proponent to conduct some physical work or physical activity in relation to a project proposal and includes Regulatory Authorities as defined under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

B

Best Environmental Practices

[Meilleures pratiques environnementales]

[ᐱᓄᓐ ᐱᓄᓐ ᐱᓄᓐ ᐱᓄᓐ]

[Nakuuqpiagtumik Avatiliqinirnut Uktuutit]

The application of the most appropriate combination of measures, including the most economically feasible, the best available technology, and the best scientific information available, to all stages of the project for the goal of attaining sustainable development.

Board

[Commission]

[ᐅᐱᓄᓐ]

[Katimayiingit]

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), established as an institution of public government under Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 18 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*) .

Bulk Storage of Fuel

[Entreposage en vrac du combustible]

[ᐅᓃᓃᓃᐅᓃᓃᓃ ᐅᓃᓃᓃᐅᓃᓃᓃ]

[Anginiqhautaa Tutquumavik Uqhuryuanut]

Storage of fuel for resupply or resale but, as delineated under an agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the NIRB, this definition does not apply to individual residential or commercial users storing less than 80,000 litres.

D

Designated Area

[Région désignée]

[ᐅᓃᓃᓃᐅᓃᓃᓃ ᐅᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃᓃ]

[Tiliyauhimayuq Inia]

Defined as the area that consists of the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Outer Land Fast Ice Zone. See [Figure 1](#).

Figure 1: Map of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Outer Land Fast Ice Zone



E

Ecosystem

[Écosystème]

[ᐃᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ]

[Avatiqaqatigiingniq]

A community of living (biotic) organisms interacting with each other and with non-living (abiotic) support elements, such as solar energy, air, water, and soil.

Ecosystemic

[Écosystémique]

[ᐃᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ]

[Avatiqaqatigiingnianut]

Relating to the complexity of a natural community of living organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

Elder

[Aîné]

[ᐃᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ]

[Inirnikhaq]

Any member of the community recognized as such in accordance with local culture, customs, and traditions or someone recognized for their experience in Inuit culture, customs, and knowledge.

Environment

[Environnement]

[ᐃᐸᐸᐸᐸᐸ]

[Avatinga]

The components of the Earth including (a) land, water and air, including all layers of the atmosphere; (b) all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms; and

H

Hearing

[Audience]

[ᐃᑦ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ]

[Naalangniq]

Includes a hearing on an application, the hearing of a motion, a pre-hearing conference, or an oral or written hearing.

I

Impacts

[Répercussions]

[ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ]

[Ihuiluutinit]

Any positive or negative change in the biophysical and/or socio-economic environment caused by, or directly related to, a former, ongoing or proposed activity. There are three (3) types of effects:

1. **Direct Effects** - refer to changes in the environmental components that result from direct cause-effect consequences of interactions between the project activities and the environment. For example the construction of a quarry site may see direct loss of local vegetation and disturbance to soils and aquatic environments.
2. **Indirect Effects** - result from cause-effect consequences of interactions between the environment and indirect impacts. For example, the effect of pollution may not only be seen directly in the loss of local vegetation, but indirectly as a degradation of the health, culture and social structure of the local people.
3. **Cumulative Effects** - refer to the accumulation of changes to the environment caused by human activities (e.g., past, existing and proposed

- b. Manufacturing plant (steel, metal or chemical)
- c. Recycling Depot
- d. Hazardous waste or chemical storage or use
- e. Quarries – the initial development or the expansion of an existing quarry and the disestablishment thereof where the same was not included as part of the initial screening
- f. Explosives storage
- g. Tanneries
- h. Meat and fish production facilities (establishment or change in operation)
- i. Exploration, bulk sampling, mining and all associated mining activities

2. This excludes the following:

- a. All institutional activities
- b. The following commercial activities
- c. Building supply centre
- d. Animal hospital
- e. Custom workshop
- f. Construction equipment yard
- g. Heavy equipment sales and rentals
- h. Automotive commercial garage
- i. Extraction from existing quarries
- j. Home occupations – meaning any occupation, trade, profession, personal service, day care or craft carried on by an occupant of a residential building as a use secondary to the residential use of the building

Information Request

[*Demande d'information*]

[ᑕᓄᑦᑎᑦ ᑕᑲᓄᑦᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ]

[*Ilittuqhainiq Tukhiutinit*]

A written request for information or particulars from one party to another, or made by the Board that it considers necessary to carry out its review or screening or to determine the scope of the project, as the case may be.

Interpretation

[*Interprétation*]

[ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ]

[*Uqaqtittiniq*]

Oral communication to translate from one language to another. The NIRB may require interpretation of oral communications into the official languages of Canada and/or Nunavut, namely English, French, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, other Inuit dialects, or any other languages deemed relevant for the purposes of the Board.

Intervenor

[*Intervenant*]

[ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ]

[*Uqaallagumayuq*]

Any party who has been granted standing under the *Nunavut Agreement* to intervene or who has applied for, and been granted, Intervenor status, thereby giving them the right to participate as a party in any proceedings before the NIRB. The term may refer to Regional Inuit Organizations, government agencies providing technical expertise, Regulatory Authorities, Authorizing Agencies, non-governmental organizations, local and regional hunters' and trappers' organizations, participants residing outside of Nunavut that may be affected by transboundary effects of projects subject to assessment by the NIRB and any member of the public who applies for and is granted Intervenor status.

Inuit Qaujimaningit

[Inuit Qaujimaningit]

[ᐃᐅᐃᑦ ᑦᑲᐅᐱᐸᐸᐸᐸᑦ]

[Inuit Qaujimaningit]

The term Inuit Qaujimaningit is meant to encompass Inuit traditional knowledge (and variations thereof or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit), local and community-based knowledge, as well as Inuit epistemology as it relates to Inuit Societal Values and Inuit Knowledge (both traditional and contemporary). Inuit Qaujimaningit is rooted in the daily life of Inuit people and represents experience acquired over thousands of years of direct human contact with the environment.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

[Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit]

[ᐃᐅᐃᑦ ᑦᑲᐅᐱᐸᐸᐸᐸᑦ]

[Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit]

Guiding principles of Inuit social values including: respecting other, relationships, and caring for people; development of skills through practice, effort and action; working together for a common cause; fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive; serving and providing for family and/or community; decision making through discussion and consensus; being innovative and resourceful; and respect and care for the land, animals and the environment. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit refers to traditional values, beliefs, principles and experience regarding the environment.

M

Mitigation

[Atténuation]

[ᐅᐱᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐ]

[Ingattahittailiniq]

Measures designed to control, reduce or eliminate potentially adverse impacts of a project or activity.

For example, the placement of fences or rocks along a steep slope in order to slow down water flow. This is typically done to reduce and/or eliminate erosion which can have an impact on slope steepness and the freshwater environment.

Monitoring

[Surveillance]

[ᓄᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐᓃᓐ]

[Munakgiyauyukhanik]

The systematic observation or tracking of an activity to determine whether it is proceeding or functioning as expected. Through monitoring, the accuracy of environmental impact predictions is assessed. A number of different monitoring activities are identified below:

1. **Effects monitoring** is the process of measuring and interpreting changes to environmental and socio-economic parameters to identify relevant project effects, and may involve assessing the accuracy of impact predictions contained in the project impact statements;
2. **Compliance monitoring** is the process of determining whether and to what extent the land or resource use in question is carried out according to regulatory requirements, including terms and conditions contained in NIRB project certificates.

N

Nunavut Settlement Area

[Région du Nunavut]

[ᓄᓇᕈᓪ ᓂᓕᓕᓕᓐᓴᓂᓂᓂᓂᓂ]

[Nunavut Nunataarviup Iluani]

The Nunavut Settlement area is generally bounded:

- on the west and north by the Inuvialuit Settlement Area;
- on the west and south by the South Slave, North Slave, and the Sahtu Dene and Métis settlement areas;
- on the south by the Manitoba border and the southern boundary of the Nunavut Territory; and
- and on the east and north by the eastern and northern boundaries of the Nunavut Territory.

The Belcher Islands and certain adjacent islands in Hudson Bay are also included in the Nunavut Settlement Area

Please refer to Article 3 in the *Nunavut Agreement* and the associated map in Schedule 3-1 that depicts the Nunavut Settlement Area or refer to [Figure 1](#).

Nunavut Agreement

[Accord du Nunavut]

[ᓄᓇᕈᓪ ᓐᓴᓂᓂᓂᓂ]

[Nunavut Angirutinga]

The land claims agreement signed on May 25, 1993, between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and the Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, based on and reflecting the following objectives:

- a) to provide for certainty and clarity of rights to ownership and use of lands and resources, and of rights for Inuit to participate in decision-making concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources, including the offshore;

- b) to provide Inuit with wildlife harvesting rights and rights to participate in decision making concerning wildlife harvesting;
- c) to provide Inuit with financial compensation and means of participating in economic opportunities; and
- d) to encourage self-reliance and the cultural and social well-being of Inuit.

The *Nunavut Agreement* was ratified, given effect and declared valid by the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Act*, which came into force on July 9, 1993, and includes any amendments made under the *Nunavut Agreement*.

The *Nunavut Agreement* is referred to as the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*

Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act

[Loi sur l'aménagement du territoire et l'évaluation des projets au Nunavut]

[ᓄᓇᓂᓴ ᄋᓪᓴᓄᓪᓴ ᄋᓴ ᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ]

[Nunavunmi Ihumaliuqniq unalu Havauhikhamut Naunaiyainingga Maligaq]

The *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* or *NuPPAA* implements certain provisions of Articles 10 to 12 of the *Nunavut Agreement*. The *NuPPAA* is an Act respecting land use planning and the assessment of ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts of projects in the Nunavut Settlement Area and making consequential amendments to other Acts.

O

Outer Land Fast Ice Zone

[Zone de banquise côtière externe]

[ᓄᓇᓂᓴ ᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ ᓴᓴᓴᓴᓴ]

[Nuna Hilataaniit Hikurnariyuktut Kigliita]

Refers to the land fast ice of the east coast of Baffin Island in Baffin Bay and the Davis Strait; and between the eastern limits of the Nunavut Settlement Area and

the eastern limits of the land fast ice. For further clarification, it means the area bounded by

- (a) in the north by Latitude 73° 40' off Cape Liverpool on Bylot Island,
- (b) in the south, by Latitude 66° 37' N, off Cape Dyer on Baffin Island,
- (c) in the west, by the seaward edge of the Territorial Sea boundary off the east coast of Baffin Island, and
- (d) in the east, by the maximum limit of land fast ice (1963-1989) as set out in Schedule 16-1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* for general information purposes only.

P

Party

[Partie]

[ᐱᐅᐅ ᑲᐅᐅᐅᐅ]

[Angiqatigiiktuq]

The applicant or Proponent involved in the assessment process, any Designated Inuit Organizations, Intervenor, or member(s) of the Public participating in the NIRB's assessment.

Precautionary Principle

[Principe de précaution]

[ᑲᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ]

[Qayagiyauyukhaq Hivunikhaliurut]

A rule or principle of environmental management denoting that if there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental and/or socio-economic degradation.

Responsible Minister

[Ministre compétent]

[ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ ᑲᑲᑲᑲ]

[Munariyangit Minista]

Means a Minister of the Government of Canada or a member of the Executive Council appointed as Minister, as the context requires, responsible for the subject matter referred to, and in the case of NIRB assessments, the federal or territorial Minister(s) having jurisdictional responsibility for authorizing a project to proceed.

S

Screening

[Examen préalable]

[ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ ᑲᑲᑲᑲ]

[Naunaiyainiq]

An evaluation of a project proposal conducted to determine if the project has the potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socioeconomic impacts and accordingly, whether it requires review by the Board or by a federal environmental assessment panel, as the case may be [under either Part 5 or 6 of Article 12 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and ss. 99-133 of the *NuPPAA*].

Scoping

[Détermination de la portée]

[ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ ᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲᑲ]

[Ilittuqhaiyut]

A process that begins early in an environmental assessment, involving all affected Parties and that identifies significant issues warranting study and analysis. This activity aims to identify those components of the biophysical and

social environment which may be impacted by the project and for which there is public and/ or professional concern. These components will then become the focus of the ensuing investigations.

As per ss. 86(1) and 99(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the first step in the NIRB's assessment process (both screening and review) is the requirement that the Board determine the scope of the project in relation to the project proposal that was received, as well as the scope of the assessment. The Board must include any work or activity identified in the project proposal, and any other work or activity that it considers sufficiently related to the project. The Board must also exclude any work or activity from the scope that it considers insufficiently related to the project.

Significance

[Importance des répercussions]

[ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ]

[Akhuurutauyuq]

As set out under the *NuPPAA*, when determining the significance of impacts the Board must take the following factors into account:

- (a) the size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts;
- (b) the ecosystemic sensitivity of that area;
- (c) the historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area;
- (d) the size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts;
- (e) the nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts;
- (f) the probability of the impacts occurring;
- (g) the frequency and duration of the impacts;
- (h) the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts;
- (i) the cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out; and

- (j) any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.

Socio-Economic Effects

[Effets socioéconomiques]

[ᐃᓄᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐ ᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐ ᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐ ᐃᓄᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐ]

[Inungnut-Ikayuutikhainit Ihuiluutinit]

Refers to any of a variety of social and economic effects, including impacts upon the local economy, health, demographics, traditional way of life, cultural and personal wellbeing, individual and community social life, archaeological resources, existing services and infrastructure, and local and regional government organizations.

Standing

[Qualité pour agir]

[ᐱᓴᓐᓴᓂᓐ]

[Auladjutingit]

Refers to a party’s right to make a legal claim or seek judicial enforcement of a duty or right.

Sustainable Development

[Développement durable]

[ᐃᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐ ᐱᓴᓐᓴᓂᓐ ᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐᓴᓂᓐ]

[Aturaaqtakhainit Pivallianingit]

Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

T

Technical Review Comment

[Observations de l'examen technique]

[ᐃᐅᑕᑦᑲᐃᑦᑕᐅᐅᑕᐅᐅᑕᑦᑕᐅᐅᑕᑦ ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ ᐃᑦᑲᐃᑦᑕᐅᐅᑕᑦ]

[Qauyiharnikkut Qimilruqtuq Niplautingit]

Comments provided during the technical review of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that indicate a party's level of agreement with the findings and conclusions presented in the EIS related to alternatives assessment, environmental impacts and significance of impacts, and proposed mitigation and monitoring measures. Technical review comments may also indicate a need for additional information, data collection, analysis, or methods that, in the view of the party, would be required to properly consider, assess, and mitigate impacts.

Traditional Knowledge

[Connaissances traditionnelles]

[ᑦᑲᐃᑦᑕᐅᐅᑕᑦ]

[Pitquhingit Qauhimaningit]

As defined under the *NuPPAA* to mean the accumulated body of knowledge, observations and understandings about the environment, and about the relationship of living beings with one another and with the environment, that is rooted in the traditional way of life of Inuit of the designated area.

Transboundary Impacts

[Répercussions transfrontalières]

[ᑦᑲᐃᑦᑕᐅᐅᑕᑦ]

[Ingilganikmun Nungumaah Ihuikgutait]

Environmental effects or impacts that occur across provincial, territorial, or international boundaries. This includes considerations of political or geographical boundaries that may pertain to treaty rights or similar claims but may not appear on the usual mapping levels.

