



# Nunavut Impact Assessment

- Screen project proposals to determine whether or not a review is required
- Gauge and define the extent of regional impacts
- Review ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of project proposals
- Determine whether project proposals should proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions
- Monitor projects that have been approved to proceed



*NIRB compliance monitoring and effects monitoring allow for feedback into ongoing impact assessments*

# Arctic Policy Framework

In considering where government-led policy and initiatives could realize further improvements for Nunavut, we believe further support is required in the following areas:

- investments in baseline data collection, enhancement of existing monitoring programs to better understand and address potential cumulative effects;
- collection and documentation of local community knowledge and Inuit Qaujimagatunangit;
- establishment of a participant funding program to empower Inuit and community level organizations to participate in regulatory processes; and,
- support for increased climate change related science and initiatives.

# Increasing Available Information

An effective impact assessment process is one where baseline information is readily available to make informed predictions about the potential effects of proposed development.

- Nunavut is under-represented in terms of available scientific baseline information.
- Project proponents must often conduct this research themselves to establish the baseline necessary to make impact predictions.
- Where the desired information doesn't exist, the Board must take a precautionary approach when considering approval of projects, requiring predictions to be proven through adoption of adaptive management strategies.
- Project proponents are often required to financially support the monitoring programs of government agencies to verify project-related effects.

# Local Knowledge

- The term Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit encompasses Inuit “Traditional Knowledge” (TK)
  - Encompasses local and community based knowledge, ecological knowledge (both traditional and contemporary), which is rooted in the daily life of Inuit people, and has an important contribution to make to an environmental assessment
- Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit assists greatly in making impact predictions, particularly where scientific baseline may be lacking



# Participant Funding Program

## *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*

**228.** (1) The Governor in Council may, on the recommendation of the federal Minister after close consultation by that Minister with the territorial Minister, the designated Inuit organization, the Commission and the Board, make regulations for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act and, in particular, regulations...

(b) establishing a funding program to facilitate the participation of specified classes of persons or groups in reviews of projects by the Board, a federal environmental assessment panel or a joint panel

# Recurring Climate Change Issues

- Coastal erosion and wake effects from shipping
- Changing ice conditions and effect on shipping
  - Increased interest in arctic cruise tourism, through transits of the NWP
  - Allocation of limited government resources (e.g. CCG Northern Marine Transportation Corridors initiative)
- Effects of the Environment on proposed development:
  - Effectiveness of permafrost encapsulation
  - Extreme weather events
  - Permafrost degradation and infrastructure stability
- Modelling of hydrological systems
- Changing wildlife distributions and migration patterns
- Increasing potential for invasive species



*Quajannamiik!*

*Thank you!*

*Merci!*

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