



Note: The abbreviations 'NIRB' and 'the Board' are used interchangeably throughout this document in reference to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

### *1. Why was the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) established?*

NIRB was established on July 9, 1996 as an institution of public government responsible for the environmental assessment of project proposals in the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA). NIRB's mandate and authority is described in Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

### *2. What is NIRB's mandate?*

NIRB screens project proposals to determine whether they have significant impact potential. In doing so, NIRB conducts environmental and socio-economic assessments. NIRB utilizes Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Traditional Inuit Knowledge) and recognized scientific methods in order to gauge and monitor potential impacts of project proposals in the NSA.

In carrying out its functions, NIRB is directed to act fairly and in such a way that at all times, it protects and promotes the existing and future well being of residents of Nunavut, and protects the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. The NLCA also instructs NIRB to take into account the well being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area (NLCA Section 12.2.5).

### *3. What are NIRB's functions?*

The primary functions of NIRB, as established in the NLCA, shall be:

- a) To screen project proposals in order to determine whether or not a review is required; (a review is conducted when a project may have significant adverse effects, will cause significant public concern, or involves technological innovations for which effects are unknown); for more information please see:
  - NLCA (Section 12.2.2, 12.4.2)
  - Guide 2 – Terminology and Definitions
  - Guide 3 – Filing Project Proposals and the Screening Process
  - Guide 4 – Project Proposals Exempt from Screening
- b) To gauge and define the extent of the regional impacts of a project;
- c) To review the ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts of project proposals;

- d) To determine, on the basis of a review, whether a project proposal should proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions, and then report its determination to the Minister (for more details on determinations, please see Guide 5: The NIRB Review Process); and
- e) To monitor projects in order to measure effects on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environment in the NSA and to determine whether terms and conditions are being followed.

#### *4. What principles does NIRB use in fulfilling its mandate?*

- **Credibility**

NIRB works hard to establish and maintain credibility with its partners, including Nunavut organizations, government, industry and the public.

- **Respect**

Within its mandated powers, NIRB strives to exercise due respect for the culture, values, and interests of all Nunavummiut.

- **Fairness**

NIRB makes every effort to carry out its mandate with fairness to all Parties. In making its determinations, NIRB members are at all times, guided by impartiality and due process. Over time, NIRB's prior decisions may provide a useful benchmark to indicate how the Board will view particular types of proposals. However, while NIRB will generally try to decide similar project proposals in a consistent manner, as a matter of law, the Board must evaluate each proposal on its own merits and with respect to its own context.

- **Public Participation**

NIRB operates under the principle that public participation is an important element of an open, honest, and balanced review process. Effective public participation strengthens the quality of the review process and helps to avoid potential misunderstandings and conflict. NIRB has a role to ensure that affected communities are aware of the project and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. For more information, please see Guide 6a: NIRB's Public Awareness and Participation Programs.

- **Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ)**

NIRB recognizes IQ as the 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.

### *5. How is NIRB organized?*

The Board is composed of nine members, one of whom acts as chairperson. Members are appointed for a three-year term by the following method:

- Four members are appointed by the federal Minister responsible for Northern Affairs, upon nomination by the Designated Inuit Organization (Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association and Qikiqtani Inuit Association).
- Two members are appointed by one or more Ministers of the Government of Canada.
- Two members are appointed by one or more Ministers of the Territorial Government; at least one of whom is appointed by the Minister responsible for Renewable Resources.
- The chairperson is appointed by the federal Minister responsible for Northern Affairs in consultation with the Territorial Government, from nominations agreed to and provided by Board members.
- In the nomination and appointment of a chairperson, preference shall be given to persons resident in the Nunavut Settlement Area.

### *6. To what geographic area does NIRB's authority apply?*

NIRB's authority applies to both land and marine areas within the NSA and to the Outer Land Fast Ice Zone. Please see the attached map.

The Board's authority also extends to projects with potential transboundary impacts. NIRB may upon request by Government or, with the consent of Government, upon request by a DIO, review a project proposal located outside of the NSA that may have significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects on the NSA. For more information, please see NLCA: Sections 12.11.1, 15.2.2, 16.1.1, 40.4.8, 40.5.7.

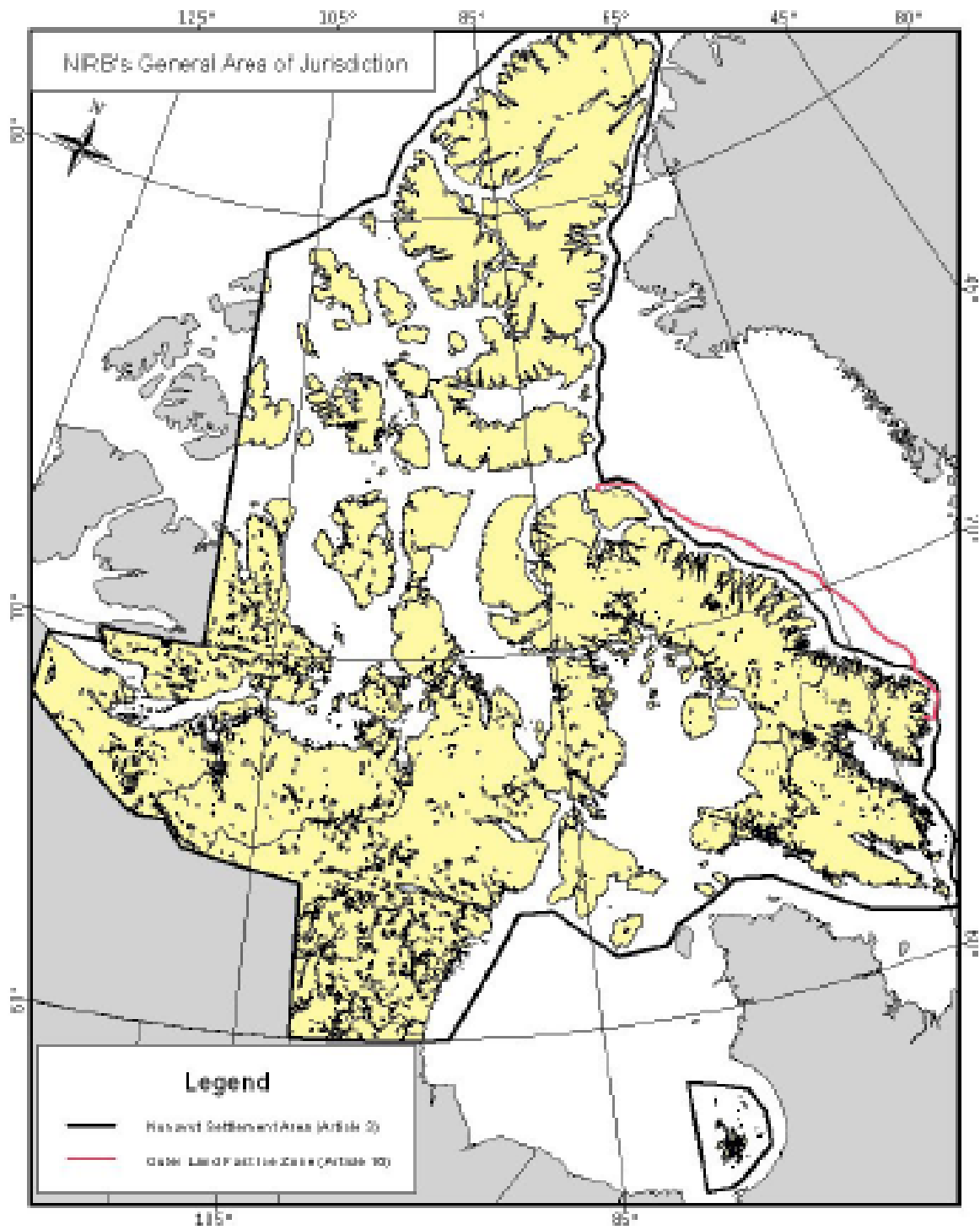


Figure 1 - Geographic area to which NIRB's authority applies

*7. What is the relationship between NIRB and other Nunavut Boards established under the NLCA?*

This is NIRB's relationship with the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC), as stated in Sections 12.3.1 and 12.3.5 of the NLCA:

Where the NPC determines, pursuant to Section 11.5.10, that a project proposal is in conformity with one of the land use plans (Keewatin and North Baffin), or a variance has been approved, the NPC shall forward the project proposal with its determination and recommendations to NIRB for screening. In the absence of an approved land use plan, all project proposals other than those that fall within Schedule 12-1 (please see Guide 4: Project Proposals Exempt from NIRB Screening for information regarding exemptions) shall be referred directly to NIRB for screening.

This is NIRB's relationship with the Nunavut Water Board (NWB), as stated in Section 13.5.2 of the NLCA:

Following receipt of a water application for screening, NIRB shall determine whether it requires a review pursuant to Article 12 and shall advise the NWB. Where the water application is referred for review under Article 12, the NWB and the review body shall coordinate their efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication in the review and processing of the application. Legislation may provide for joint hearings or authorize the NWB to forego public hearings on any water application where it has participated in a public review of the relevant water application pursuant to Article 12.

This is NIRB's relationship to marine management as stated in Section 15.4.1 of the NLCA:

The NIRB, the NWB, the NPC and the NWMB may jointly, as a Nunavut Marine Council, or severally advise and make recommendations to other government agencies regarding the marine areas, and Government shall consider such advice and recommendations in making decisions which affect marine areas.

*8. What additional information regarding the NIRB EA process is available?*

A series of guides have been produced to provide information about NIRB and the NIRB process. They are all available at <http://ftp.nirb.ca/> :

- Guide 1 – The Nunavut Impact Review Board
- Guide 2 – Terminology and Definitions
- Guide 3 – Filing Project Proposals and the Screening Process
- Guide 4 – Projects Exempt from Screening
- Guide 5 – The NIRB Review Process
- Guide 6a – NIRB’s Public Awareness and Participation Programs: The Review Process
- Guide 6b – A Proponent’s Guide to Conducting Public Consultation for the NIRB Environmental Assessment Process
- Guide 7 – Preparation of Environmental Impact Statements
- Guide 8 – Project Monitoring
- Rules of Procedure

*9. How can I contact NIRB?*

NIRB’s contact information:

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
c/o Executive Director  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

Toll Free Telephone: 1-866-233-3033

Fax: (867) 983-2594

Email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)

Website: <http://www.nirb.ca>

**FTP Site: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/>**