

# Roadmap to Mineral **Exploration & Development** in the **Inuvialuit** **Settlement Region**



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO OF INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION

The Inuvialuit Settlement Region encompasses 26% of the Northwest Territories landmass and most of its marine areas.

The ISR also encompasses the Yukon North Slope and the offshore areas adjacent to the Yukon. It is a vast area of Canada and is the traditional Inuvialuit territory. Inuvialuit are an Indigenous people who, over countless generations, have developed a deep and personal relationship with both the land and waters of the region and the ecosystems they sustain.

We have lived through dramatic upheaval over the past 200 years as people from other parts of the world entered our traditional lands for their own gain. Our communities have shown resilience through the insight of our elders, effectively adapting to many cultural, social and economic changes while maintaining strong connections with our traditions and lands.

Recognizing the realities of a modern commerce and wage-based society, we have assessed the requirements to succeed in this environment and have acquired the necessary levels of education and business capacity necessary to fully participate in the employment and business opportunities currently present within the region and beyond.

In parallel, we have also assessed the economic potential of our traditional lands. While the region's geographical location and population density present obstacles in many business sectors, the region's abundant non-renewable resources offer massive economic development opportunities yet to be realized. This is particularly relevant within the mining sector where coal, diamonds, base and precious metals have been identified in many areas across the region.

Realizing the commercial potential of these resources will require ingenuity and collaboration. I am pleased to say that we have the experience, the commitment and the capacity to work in partnership with mineral explorers and developers to find solutions and develop minerals in a manner that meets and respects the values and objectives of all interested parties.

In this document we provide a roadmap for mineral exploration and development within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Consistent in policy and direction with the Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan and the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy, this document focuses on the most northerly region within the Northwest Territories and Yukon, the people who live here and our expectations regarding mineral exploration and development within our traditional lands. This roadmap is also consistent with the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Inuvialuit Land Administration Rules. Through this document, we invite and welcome those who have the foresight and the energy to join us in unleashing the vast mineral potential of this unique corner of Inuit Nunangat and Canada.



**Duane Ningaqsiq Smith,**  
**Chair and CEO, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**



# INTRODUCTION TO THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION

Stretching from the high Arctic Islands in the North, southward to the boreal forest, and westward along the Arctic coast from the Nunavut border to the Alaska border, the total area of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) is approximately 1.2 million square kilometers

Sitting at the Northwest corner of Canada, its lands and waters surround the western entrance to the legendary Northwest Passage. It also hosts the delta and mouth of the Mackenzie River, the second largest drainage basin in North America next to the Mississippi and the second largest river delta in the Arctic next to the Lena River delta in Russia. A more detailed map of the ISR is provided in Appendix A.

Although there have been warming trends over recent years, average temperatures throughout the region are still significantly below southern Canadian norms. On the mainland portion of the region, it is not uncommon to see temperatures rise to 27 °C by mid-summer. Temperatures fall again in late August/early September when frost and snowfalls work their steady return. Although subject to short-term and increasing irregularities, winter temperatures on the mainland extend from October to early May with -30 °C or colder frequently experienced in mid-winter.

Moving northward, summers gradually get shorter and winters longer. Summer temperatures in the northernmost reaches of the region rarely exceed 10°C and winter temperatures regularly dip to -40 °C.

The entire region is subject to permafrost where, apart from a thin active layer that thaws every summer, ground temperatures remain below freezing throughout the year. Further north in the region, active layers are thinner and permafrost layers get colder and thicker. The effects of climate change are increasingly noticeable throughout the region with impacts including ground slumping, watercourse alteration and challenges for infrastructure stability.



In line with the temperature, the flora of the region varies significantly from its southern to northern boundaries. Although spruce, alder, silver birch, willow, and occasionally tamarack flourish in many areas along the southern inland portions of the region, moving north this variety of growth diminishes quickly with coastal and offshore islands only capable of sustaining several varieties of Arctic willow. Flowering plants, berry bearing shrubs, grasses, sedges and lichens are present throughout the region with abundance, size and variety diminishing as one goes further north.

The region supports a wide range of land and water-based wildlife, including whales and seals, polar, grizzly and black bears, muskoxen, caribou, moose, wolves, wolverine, foxes, lynx, numerous smaller fur-bearing animals, rodents, resident and migratory birds, freshwater and ocean-based fish, and an extensive list of flying and crawling insects. There are no reptiles in the region. Although the presence and location of many species are subject to seasonal variation, as with the region's flora, the variety and abundance of wildlife generally diminishes moving north.

Descended from a Thule population that moved eastward from Alaska around 1000 AD, the Inuvialuit have lived in and continuously occupied the region for more than 1000 years. Numbering around 2000 by the 19th century, the Inuvialuit formed the densest Inuit population in Arctic Canada, divided into regional groups with a way of life adapted to the wildlife and resources of their specific area.

Although Inuvialuit have maintained trading and cultural ties with the Alaskan Inupiaq or Inuit for centuries, 1789 marked the beginning of increasing incursions from outside interests into the region. This long list includes expeditions to locate the fabled Northwest Passage, to the arrival of fur trappers, the traders, the whalers, the missionaries, the police and the government, and in more recent decades the establishment of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line and the search for hydrocarbon deposits in the Mackenzie Delta and offshore areas.

The individual and cumulative impacts of these advances of people brought major cultural and economic challenges to the Inuvialuit and uninvited impacts to their traditional lands. Increasingly concerned over these impacts and their lack of any meaningful participation in industrial developments across their region, the Inuvialuit formally commenced regional land claim negotiations directly with the Government of Canada in 1976. Based on their continuous occupation and use of the land and resources of the region, Inuvialuit were successful in negotiating the first Land Claim Agreement north of the 60th parallel in Canadian history.





# THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) was signed June 5, 1984 after ten years of negotiations between the Government of Canada and the Inuvialuit. The IFA was the first comprehensive land claim agreement signed north of the 60th parallel and only the second in Canada at that time.

In the IFA, Inuvialuit agreed to give up their exclusive use of their ancestral lands in exchange for certain guaranteed rights to land, wildlife management and money.

The IFA establishes and protects the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) in law for present and future generations of Inuvialuit. Through the IFA, Inuvialuit seek to ensure an approach to the development of resources that preserves the integrity of treaty rights and pursues prosperity for Inuvialuit over the long term. Section 1 of the IFA outlines the core objectives of the Agreement:

- A. to preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society;
- B. to enable Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the northern and national economy and society; and
- C. to protect and preserve the Arctic wildlife, environment and biological productivity.

Guided by these three core objectives the IFA affirms Inuvialuit harvesting rights and the right to participate in the future development of the region. The IFA accords fee simple ownership to lands throughout the region, financial compensation in exchange for settlement, and a broad range of measures to support the retention of economic benefits in the region. The IFA does all of this while retaining undefined aboriginal rights and rights as Canadians in perpetuity. Collectively, the terms and benefits of the IFA and the structures it establishes provide the Inuvialuit with the tools to work in concert with industry and all levels of government to achieve the three core objectives of the IFA.

Inuvialuit have extensive experience in natural resource exploration and development and welcome companies that are willing to work with Inuvialuit to pursue responsible development within the ISR. To work effectively in the region, it is necessary to know the principal actors. The entities established or recognized by the IFA fall into two general fields of responsibility: Corporate and Co-Management.



## 1. INUVIALUIT CORPORATE STRUCTURES

### **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)**

The IRC is a not-for-profit corporation with the mandate to generally represent the collective rights and interests of Inuvialuit in local, regional, national and international forums. Its membership is composed of the six Inuvialuit communities in the ISR and serves to monitor and advocate for the implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. It is headquartered in Inuvik and has an office in Calgary.

Through its Inuvialuit Land Administration (ILA) division, IRC has direct oversight of the matters related to the supervision, management and administration of Inuvialuit lands.

IRC also holds 100% of all voting shares in each of the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, the Inuvialuit Investment Corporation, the Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation and the Inuvialuit Land Corporation.

### **Inuvialuit Community Corporations**

There are six communities within the ISR: Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok. Each Inuvialuit community has a not-for-profit Community Corporation with membership comprised of the current Inuvialuit members of that community. These six Community Corporations comprise the membership of the IRC.

### **Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC)**

IDC is a for-profit entity that participates in direct and indirect business ventures both within and outside of the ISR. The members of the Board of Directors of the IDC, including the Chair, are appointed by the IRC.

### **Inuvialuit Investment Corporation (IIC)**

IIC is a for-profit entity that oversees a diversified securities portfolio. It has a mandate to increase overall portfolio value using moderate strategies to preserve capital and benefit future generations of Inuvialuit. The members of the Board of Directors of the IIC, including the Chair, are appointed by the IRC.

### **Inuvialuit Land Corporation (ILC)**

ILC owns the lands received through the settlement of the IFA. This includes 91,000 km<sup>2</sup> of surface ownership and 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> of surface and sub-surface ownership. The members of the Board of Directors of the ILC are appointed by the IRC.

### **Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation (IPC)**

IPC is a for-profit entity that participates in northern oil and gas opportunities. The members of the Board of Directors of IPC are appointed by the IRC.

### **The Inuvialuit Trust**

The Inuvialuit Trust owns 100% of the non-voting shares of IDC, IIC, IPC and ILC. The IRC is the Settlor of the Trust.

## 2. WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CO-MANAGEMENT BODIES

### **Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC)**

The IGC consists of a chairperson and two representatives from each of the six Hunters and Trappers Committees. The IGC represents the collective Inuvialuit interests in wildlife.

### **Inuvialuit Hunters and Trappers Committees**

One Hunters and Trappers Committee in each of the six Inuvialuit communities advises the IGC and IFA co-management bodies on all matters related to wildlife, sub-allocates wildlife harvesting quotas, makes by-laws governing the Inuvialuit right to harvest within their area of responsibility, and participates in other matters related to wildlife conservation, research, management, enforcement and utilization.

### **Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC Yukon North Slope)**

WMAC North Slope provides advice to the appropriate government ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Yukon North Slope.

The permanent membership of the Council consists of a chairperson and an equal number of members designated by government and the Inuvialuit (through the IGC) and other Indigenous groups referred to in section 12(50) of the IFA.

### **Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC NWT)**

WMAC NWT provides advice, on request, to the appropriate government ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Western Arctic Region (the portion of the ISR that is not the Yukon Territory). The membership of the Council consists of a chairperson and an equal number of members designated by government and the Inuvialuit (through the IGC).





### **Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC)**

FJMC assists Canada and the Inuvialuit in administering the rights and obligations relating to fisheries under the IFA, assists the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in carrying out their responsibilities for the management of fisheries within the ISR, and advises the Minister on matters relating to Inuvialuit and fisheries in the ISR.

The committee consists of a chairperson and four members. Two of these are appointed by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and two are appointed by the IGC. The Chair is mutually agreed upon.

### **Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC)**

EISC conducts environmental screening of all proposed developments in the ISR to determine if they could have a significant negative impact on the environment or a significant negative impact on present or future wildlife harvesting. The EISC consists of a chairperson and six permanent members. Three of these members are appointed by Canada and three are appointed by the IGC.

### **Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB)**

EIRB conducts public environmental assessment and reviews of proposed developments in the ISR referred to it by the EISC on the basis that the proposed project could have a significant negative impact on the environment or present or future wildlife harvesting. The EIRB consists of a chairperson and six permanent members. Three of these members are appointed by Canada and three are appointed by the IGC.

### **Joint Secretariat**

A Joint Secretariat, based in Inuvik, provides technical and administrative support to the Wildlife and Environmental Co-Management Bodies. In addition, a secretariat office for the Wildlife Management Advisory Council for the Yukon North Slope is located in Whitehorse, Yukon.





# THE MINERAL POTENTIAL OF THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION

While the search for petroleum resources has dominated the natural resource development sector of the ISR since the mid 1960s, significant mineral exploration activities have also occurred across the region during this period. The most recognized of these being an extended exploration program on the Darnley Bay anomaly near the Inuvialuit community of Paulatuk.

Measuring some 100-by-60 kilometers, the Darnley Bay Anomaly has been recognized as the largest land-based gravity anomaly in the world, compared favourably by the Geological Survey of Canada to the massive Norilsk mine in Russia and the Sudbury Basin in Ontario. Exploration activities at the site over the past twenty years have included extensive magnetotelluric surveys in 2013 and 2018 confirming strong MT anomalies within 800-1200 meters of the surface. The presence of diamondiferous kimberlite pipes in the area and strong signs of nickel-copper-platinum mineralization have also been identified.

Other mineral exploration activities across the region have identified the presence of several kimberlite indicator mineral sources and extensive coal deposits on Banks Island. Significant kimberlite potential in the Minto Inlet on Victoria Island and along the southeast corner of the ISR have also been observed.

There are several sources of publicly available information on the geology and mineralization of the ISR, including:

## **The Northwest Territories Geological Survey**

NWT Geological Survey offers a broad base of mineral geology, databases and publications, including:

- Mineral exploration assessment reports
- Geophysical and geochemical datasets
- Surficial geology maps
- Till and soil geochemistry data
- Mineral showings database
- Kimberlite anomaly and drillhole data
- Creating and downloading customizable maps
- Scientific research programs, data sets and maps.

Inuvialuit recognize that the availability of enhanced, detailed and current geoscience information is a key component in initiating and sustaining a mining cycle. IRC strongly supports the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) efforts to bolster the capacity and availability of geoscience information across the NWT.

### **Natural Resources Canada**

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) offers earth sciences publications, data, maps and reports including an extended range of geomatics encompassing the disciplines of surveying, hydrography, mapping, remote sensing and geographic information processing.

The commencement of the Geo-mapping for Energy and Minerals (GEM) program by NRCan in 2008 has added significant mineralization information across Canada. In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region this has included a teleseismic study of Banks Island and the assessment of kimberlite indicator mineral sources on Northeast Banks Island.

### **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

Based largely on surficial sampling and other non-intrusive methods, IRC has compiled and made available to potential mineral developers a single report of all publicly available mineral exploration data from mineral exploration activities within the ISR.





# CORE NEEDS OF THE MINING SECTOR

While Inuvialuit cannot influence the factors that drive and control the world demand for minerals, Inuvialuit entities can contribute significantly to some of the core needs of the mining sector in determining where and how to advance their exploration and development activities. In addition to the availability of detailed geoscience information, these include a timely and consistent environmental screening and review process; clear and efficient licensing and regulatory approvals; strong logistical and business supports; and, proven experience in establishing and maintaining mutually satisfactory cooperation agreements between the Inuvialuit and external developers.

## i) Environmental Screening and Review Process

The IFA provides for a two-stage environmental screening and review process that applies to all development activities within the ISR.

An initial project screening is undertaken by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) to determine if the proposed development could have a significant negative environmental impact or will have significant negative impact on present or future wildlife harvesting. Upon reaching a determination, the EISC will advise the governmental authority competent to authorize the development that, in its view:

- A. the development will have no such significant negative impact and may proceed without environmental assessment and review under the IFA;
- B. the development, if authorized subject to environmental terms and conditions recommended by the EISC, will have no such significant negative impact and may proceed without environmental assessment and review under the IFA;
- C. the development could have significant negative impact and is subject to assessment and review under the IFA; or
- D. the development proposal has deficiencies of a nature that warrant a termination of its consideration and the submission of another project description.

**Note:** Certain proposed developments are exempt from screening by the EISC. These include responses to national and regional emergencies and activities included on an exclusion list established by EISC.

If the EISC determination indicates that the proposed development could have significant negative impacts, the EISC will refer the project to the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) for a full environmental assessment and review. The decision containing the recommendations of the EIRB is transmitted to the governmental authority competent to authorize the development. That authority, upon consideration of the recommendations of the EIRB, among other factors, will decide whether or not, on the basis of environmental impact considerations, the development should proceed. The EIRB may also include in its recommendation terms and conditions, including mitigative and remedial measures, a proponent must take.

Upon receiving the decision of the EIRB, should the competent governmental authority decide that further environmental assessment and review is required, or it is unwilling or unable to accept any of the recommendations of the EIRB or wishes to modify such recommendations, it must give reasons in writing to the EIRB within thirty (30) days why it has not accepted the recommendations.

Links to Guidelines and process flowcharts for both EISC and EIRB can be found in Appendix D as well as online.

## Important Notes on Screening and Review

- Where a proposed development is or may be subject to a governmental development or environmental impact review process, and in the opinion of the EISC that review process adequately encompasses or will encompass the EIRB assessment and review function, the EISC refers the proposal to the body carrying out that review process.
- Federal impact assessment legislation, where it applies, may provide for the coordination of the federal and Inuvialuit screening and review processes in a single environmental assessment process. Under previous federal legislation, a Memorandum of Understanding had been established between Inuvialuit and Canada for this purposes. Such coordinated reviews have been successfully completed.
- The importance of Inuvialuit traditional knowledge is recognized, solicited and given consideration in all ISR environmental assessment and review processes. The approach to traditional knowledge is described in the EISC and EIRB applicant guidelines.
- Mineral exploration and development are restricted or prohibited in several areas of the ISR. These include National Parks, Bird Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas, Beluga Management Zones, the eastern portion of the Yukon North Slope, archaeological sites, and other special management areas. Community conservation plans identify sensitive wildlife habitat and harvesting areas that are taken into consideration in all environmental review processes.

## ii) Rights Issuance, Licencing and Regulatory Approval Authorities

- A. Core authorizations for mining exploration and development activities on public sub-surface lands within the ISR:

Rights to explore for and develop sub-surface resources on territorial (public) lands and lands with respect to which Inuvialuit have surface rights are administered by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

**Prospector's Licences:** These are issued by the GNWT Mining Recorders Office (MRO) pursuant to the *NWT Mineral Resources Act*.

**Prospecting permits:** These are issued by the GNWT MRO pursuant to the *NWT Mineral Resources Act*.

**Land access authorizations:** For activities that require access to Inuvialuit Lands (whether it is to cross lands or to perform activity on them) the ILA has the authority to issue land use permits. Authorizations to access public lands are issued by the GNWT Department of Lands (DOL).

**Mineral claims and mining leases** – For public sub-surface lands, these are issued by the GNWT MRO pursuant to the *NWT Mineral Resources Act*.

B. Core authorizations for mining exploration and development activities on Inuvialuit IFA 7(1)(a) lands.

Throughout the ISR, Inuvialuit own the surface and subsurface rights in several blocks of land. The lands in which Inuvialuit own a surface interest are commonly referred to as “7(1)(b) lands” in reference to the relevant provision under the IFA. The lands in which Inuvialuit own a surface *and* subsurface interest are commonly referred to as “7(1)(a) lands” in reference to the relevant provision under the IFA.

Rights to explore for and develop resources on 7(1)(a) lands are controlled by the Inuvialuit through the ILA and ILC. While, under laws of general application, a Prospector’s Licence is also required prior to commencing mining exploration activities on 7(1)(a) lands, the rights and authorizations available through ILC and ILA are significantly more flexible than those applying to public lands and can be tailored to the requested land quantum and proposed activities on those lands. Individual and collective authorizations include Reconnaissance Permits, Land Use Permits and Licences, Participation Agreements, Co-operation Agreements and Concessions.

Mining activities on either public or Inuvialuit lands that include the use of waters or the deposit of wastes may require a Water Licence issued by the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB). Copies of the *Waters Act* (S.N.W.T. 2014, c.18) and Waters Regulations, guidelines and licensing process flowcharts are available through the IWB.

In addition to mineral rights agreements with ILC and land access authorizations from ILA, land use permits may also be required from the GNWT should the exercise of the rights granted by the Inuvialuit also require access through public lands.

**Note:** As indicated under IFA 11(36), following the acquisition of mineral rights on either public or Inuvialuit lands, no licence or access approval can be issued that would have the effect of permitting any proposed development to proceed unless the IFA environmental assessment and review provisions have been complied with.

**Other project authorizations may include:**

- Authorizations and exemptions under the federal *Fisheries Act* issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.
- Authorizations and exemptions issued under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act* issued by Transport Canada.
- Explosives storage and use authorizations issued by Natural Resources Canada.

As all activities on Inuvialuit lands are subject to the laws of general application, dependent upon the specific nature of those activities, other federal/territorial authorizations may be required.

**Note:** In recent years there has been considerable concern expressed by the mining and oil and gas sectors that the environmental review and licencing processes in the Northwest Territories are overly complex, duplicative and time consuming. These concerns have not extended to the ISR where, due to significantly different environmental review legislation and regulatory authority regimes, industry comments that project environmental review and licencing processes are timely, efficient and consistent. This has enabled development projects to proceed within anticipated budgets and timeframes.



### iii) Transportation and Business

#### A. Transportation Supports

Despite its remote location, the ISR is connected to southern Canada and other parts of the northern region by road, air and sea.

- Road: Public access from southern Canada to the Arctic coast at Tuktoyaktuk available year-round via the Dempster Highway.
- Air: Daily scheduled jet and rotary prop fixed-wing service to Inuvik; scheduled and charter rotary prop fixed-wing service to all Inuvialuit communities; rotary wing charter services throughout the ISR.
- Marine: Available through annual resupply to all Inuvialuit communities and charter river and ocean-going vessels to locations across the ISR.

#### B. Business supports

A broad range of business supports are available through the Inuvialuit Corporate Group, the Inuvialuit private business sector and other regional businesses. A link to the listing of all Inuvialuit businesses and the goods and services they provide can be found in Appendix D as well as online. A listing of other NWT businesses is available at the GNWT Corporate Registries online system.

**The Inuvialuit Development Corporation (IDC)** is a major provider of business support services both within and outside the ISR. Since its incorporation, IDC has grown into a diversified business investment, venture capital and management holding company with investments in:

- Hydrocarbon and mineral exploration: Onshore drill digs, seismic operations, environmental services from land surveying to waste management, camp and catering services, transportation and logistics support services.
- Transportation: The provision of jet and rotary prop fixed-wing scheduled and charter air services at regional, territorial and national levels. The provision of regional rotary wing air services.
- Northern Services: Grocery sales and distributing, and property management.
- Other sectors: Construction, heavy machinery manufacturing, and commercial and residential properties.

Information on all of these services can be accessed through IDC's website.

The IFA provides IDC with certain economic opportunities and rights over all other businesses within the ISR. Two of these are of specific and significant importance in accessing and developing the mineral resources of the ISR:

- IFA section **16(13)** provides that IDC may at any time hold up to ten (10) prospecting permits and twenty-five (25) mining claims; that exploratory and representation work shall be modified in such a way that prospecting and exploration can be carried out without unnecessarily incurring significant financial outlays or obligations; and that royalties or payments in lieu of royalties with respect to mining or exploration shall be waived for the first fifteen (15) years of production for the first ten (10) productive mineral leases taken out by IDC in the ISR.
- IFA section **16(14)** provides that where coal is mined in the ISR by the Inuvialuit for regional industrial use by IDC, local use coal permits to explore, develop and mine coal will be issued to the Inuvialuit free of royalty and other charges.

The availability of energy supplies is a major factor in the advancement of mineral development projects. Although the ISR communities are heavily reliant on imported diesel to provide their energy requirements, the region has the advantage of numerous as yet untapped sources of natural gas as well as extensive river systems available to transport it. Dependent upon the location of identified mineral deposits, these resources can offer significant logistical and financial benefits in satisfying the energy demands of mining developments.

#### **iv) Establishing and Maintaining Mutually Satisfactory Arrangements between the Inuvialuit and Mineral Developers.**

The IFA offers clear guidance to all those wishing to undertake mining exploration and development activities within the ISR. Throughout all phases of prospecting, development, operation and closure, developers are guided by the three core objectives of the IFA: the preservation of the Inuvialuit cultural identity; full economic participation by the Inuvialuit; and protection of the regional environment and wildlife. These three core objectives form the benchmark by which all arrangements between the Inuvialuit and the mineral sector are developed and measured.

While the three core objectives of the IFA relate to separate areas of importance to Inuvialuit, they are interdependent and must be considered collectively. The proper interaction of these is critical to the wellbeing of Inuvialuit today and in the future.

Communications with IRC and other members of the Inuvialuit Corporate Group are required at the initial stage of any mineral exploration and development activities within the ISR. Two of the main triggers for this engagement are:

- Access to or across Inuvialuit 7(1)(a) or 7(1)(b) lands, and rights and access to resources within Inuvialuit 7(1)(a) lands.
- Demand for goods and services that the Inuvialuit Corporate Group and/or Inuvialuit private businesses may provide.

Notably, Section 10 of the IFA provides for access on or through Inuvialuit lands to holders of mineral rights, contingent upon conclusion of a Participation Agreement. A Participation Agreement may include fair access fees; terms related to damage or diminution of value of the land; ILA inspection costs; wildlife compensation; restoration and mitigation measures; employment; service and supply contracts; education and training; and equity participation. Should ILA and the holder of the mineral right not be able to conclude a Participation Agreement, the matter may be referred to the Inuvialuit Arbitration Board. In certain circumstances, disputes relating to access may also be referred to the NWT Surface Rights Tribunal.





Section 16 of the IFA sets out a framework for achieving the following objectives: (a) full Inuvialuit participation in the northern Canadian economy; and, (b) Inuvialuit integration into Canadian society through development of an adequate level of economic self-reliance and a solid economic base<sup>1</sup>. Proponents will need to work closely with the IRC in procurement planning and ensure opportunities for members of the Inuvialuit Business List are maximized.

Section 16(12) of the IFA also provides that voluntary co-operation agreements concluded between ILA and the holders of rights on Inuvialuit land, to the extent that those agreements conform with government requirements, may be accepted by government as sufficient to satisfy its approval process (e.g. Canada Benefits Plans).

As the majority of exploration and development activities in the ISR involve access to or across both Inuvialuit and public lands, Inuvialuit and developers, in negotiating participation arrangements, have recognized the need for a single comprehensive agreement that covers Inuvialuit participation in all phases and at all locations of their operations throughout the ISR. Inuvialuit have demonstrated experience in efficiently negotiating Comprehensive Co-operation and Benefits Agreements (CCBA) that provide the Inuvialuit with full opportunity for economic participation while providing the proponent with assurances that they can undertake their planned activities within approved budgets and timeframes. These are straightforward agreements that outline, among other things, approaches to procurement, education initiatives and training opportunities for Inuvialuit and Inuvialuit businesses. When implemented, CCBA's can also satisfy the employment, contracting, education and training components of a Participation Agreement.

In addition to initial engagement with the IRC regarding access and Participation Agreements, engagement at community levels is an essential requirement of project approvals in the ISR. Explorers and developers must make sincere and meaningful effort to:

- Communicate project information to potentially affected Inuvialuit communities in a manner that the information can be readily understood.
- Solicit and record suggestions and concerns from Inuvialuit communities, providing adequate time for communities to consider the project information.
- Reporting back to Inuvialuit communities on engagement activities, either incorporating suggestions and resolving or otherwise addressing environmental, economic, social or cultural concerns.

Engagement with the communities that may be impacted by a proposed project should begin prior to regulatory submissions and continue through project execution and closure. Inuvialuit expectations for community engagement are described in the EISC and EIRB Applicant Guidelines. The results of these engagements are given full consideration in the EISC and EIRB assessment processes.

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<sup>1</sup> The Benefits Guidelines under Schedule I of the Inuvialuit-Canada Mineral Prospecting Agreement provide a high-level approach to fulfilling the requirements in IFA Section 16.



# FURTHER INFORMATION

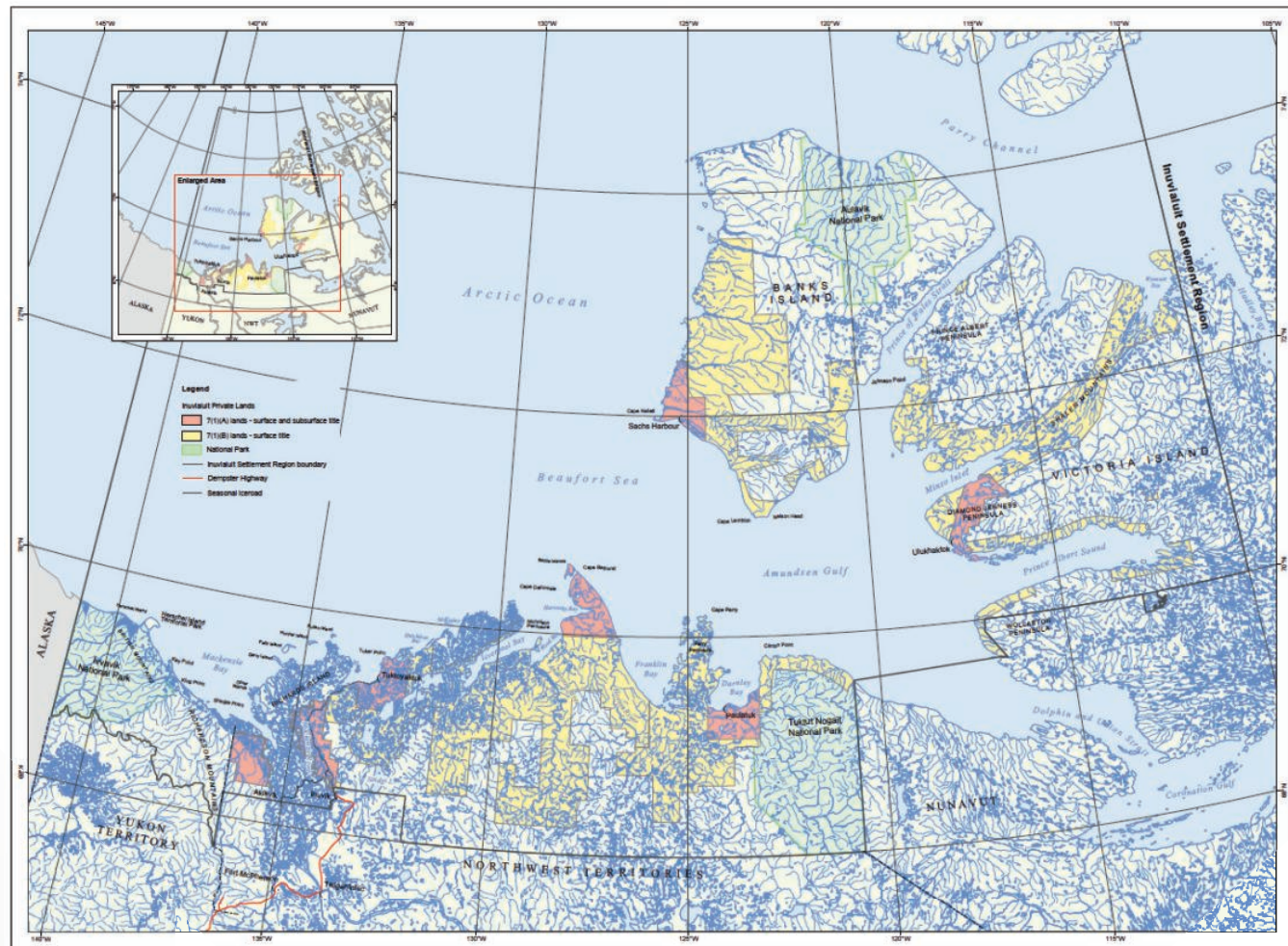
The forgoing provides a high-level roadmap to responsible mineral development in the ISR. While the hope is that this will help get prospective explorers and developers started, this document does not provide the level of detail required to prepare a detailed plan to explore and develop this region's resources. IRC encourages prospective proponents to review a copy of the "Guide to the Inuvialuit Settlement Region for Mineral Prospectors and Developers". It is available through IRC and the NWT Chamber of Mines.





# APPENDIX A:

## MAP OF THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION SHOWING INUVIALUIT-OWNED LANDS



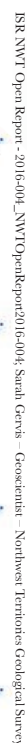
### Inuvialuit Settlement Region NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Canada Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, NAD 83  
0 50 100 150 200  
Kilometers





## GEOLOGICAL MAP OF THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION

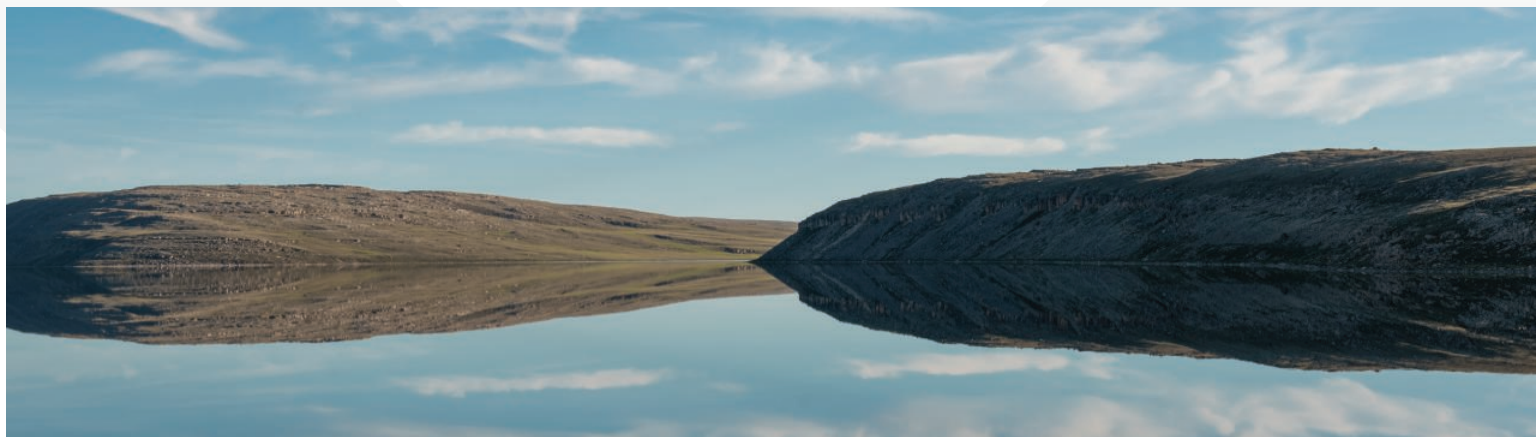


# APPENDIX C:

## AUTHORITIES FOR MINERAL ACTIVITIES ON INUVIALUIT AND TERRITORIAL (PUBLIC) LANDS WITHIN THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION

| TYPE OF LAND                               | LOCATION                                           | MINERAL RIGHTS DISPOSITION                                                                  | LAND USE AUTHORIZATONS*                                                                                             | WATER AUTHORIZATIONS*  | OTHER LAWS           |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Inuvialuit Owned IFA Section 7(1)(a) lands | Near communities                                   | Inuvialuit Land Corporation (ILC)                                                           | Inuvialuit Land Administration (and GNWT Dept of Lands if crossing of territorial [public] lands is also required)  | Inuvialuit Water Board | Govt. Of Canada/GNWT |
| Inuvialuit Owned IFA Section 7(1)(b) lands | Throughout Inuvialuit Settlement Region            | GNWT Mining Recorder's Office                                                               | Inuvialuit Land Administration (and GNWT Dept. of Lands if crossing of territorial [public] lands is also required) | Inuvialuit Water Board | Govt. Of Canada/GNWT |
| Inuvialuit Owned IFA Section 7(2) lands    | Beds of water bodies within Inuvialuit owned lands | ILC on beds within 7(1)(a) lands. GNWT Mining Recorders Office on beds within 7(1)(b) lands | Inuvialuit Land Administration (and GNWT Dept. of Lands if crossing of territorial [public] lands is also required) | Inuvialuit Water Board | Govt. Of Canada/GNWT |
| Territorial (public) lands                 | Throughout Inuvialuit Settlement Region            | GNWT Mining Recorder's Office                                                               | GNWT Dept. Of Lands (and Inuvialuit Land Administration if crossing of Inuvialuit lands is also required)           | Inuvialuit Water Board | Govt. Of Canada/GNWT |
| Commissioners (public) lands               | Within municipal boundaries                        | GNWT Mining Recorder's Office                                                               | GNWT Dept. of Lands                                                                                                 | Inuvialuit Water Board | Govt. Of Canada/GNWT |
| Yukon North Slope                          | Northern Yukon - east of Babbage River             | <b>Mineral Rights are currently not available for disposition</b>                           | Special Conservation Regime                                                                                         | N/A                    | N/A                  |

\* Land and/or water use authorizations cannot be issued unless the environmental screening/review provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement have been complied with.





# APPENDIX D:

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND LINKS

Following is **key contact information** for mineral explorers and developers:

### Contacts – Inuvialuit

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation  
Contact: (867) 777-7000  
Email: [info@inuvialuit.com](mailto:info@inuvialuit.com)
- Inuvialuit Development Corporation  
Contact: (867) 777-7000  
Email: [info@inuvialuit.com](mailto:info@inuvialuit.com)
- Inuvialuit Land Administration  
Contact: (867) 977-7100  
Email: [lands@inuvialuit.com](mailto:lands@inuvialuit.com)
- Environmental Impact Screening Committee  
Contact: (867) 777-2828  
Email: [eisc@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eisc@jointsec.nt.ca)
- Environmental Impact Review Board  
Contact: (867) 777-2828  
Email: [eirb@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eirb@jointsec.nt.ca)
- Inuvialuit Water Board  
Contact: (867) 678-2942  
Email: [info@inuvwb.ca](mailto:info@inuvwb.ca)
- Inuvialuit Game Council  
Contact: (867) 777-2828  
Email: [eirb@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:eirb@jointsec.nt.ca)
- Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat  
Contact: (867) 777-2828  
Email: [adminjs@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:adminjs@jointsec.nt.ca)
- Inuvialuit Business list  
[www.irc.inuvialuit.com/business/inuvialuit-business-list-ibl](http://www.irc.inuvialuit.com/business/inuvialuit-business-list-ibl)



## Contacts – Governments of the Northwest Territories and Yukon

- GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Contact, Inuvik: (867) 678-6650  
Contact, Yellowknife: (867) 767-9055  
Email: enr\_communications@gov.nt.ca
- GNWT Department of Lands  
Contact: (867) 767-9185  
Email: lands@gov.nt.ca
- GNWT Mining Recorders Office  
Contact: (867) 767-9210  
Email: miners@gov.nt.ca
- Yukon Government – Department of Energy, Mines and Resources  
Contact: (800) 661.0408  
Email: mining@gov.yk.ca
- Yukon Water Board  
Contact: (867) 456-3980  
Email: ywb@yukonwaterboard.ca

## Contacts – Government of Canada

- Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Contact: (780) 951-8950  
Email: ec.perc-rpn-perc-pnr.ec@canada.ca
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Contact, Inuvik: (867) 777-7500  
Contact, Winnipeg: 204-983-5000  
Email: info@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
- Natural Resources Canada  
Contact: (403) 292-4766  
Email: erdwestern@nrcan.gc.ca
- Transport Canada  
Contact: (888) 463-0521  
Email: caspnr-sacrpn@tc.gc.ca
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
Contact: (780) 495-2037  
Email: info@ceaa-acee.gc.ca





Following are **key links** for mineral explorers and developers:

- Inuvialuit Final Agreement  
<http://www.irc.inuvialuit.com/inuvialuit-final-agreement>
- Environmental Impact Screening Committee Guidelines  
[http://www.screeningcommittee.ca/pdf/eisc\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.screeningcommittee.ca/pdf/eisc_guidelines.pdf)
- Environmental Impact Review Board Guidelines  
<https://eirb.ca/guidance-documents/>
- Inuvialuit Water Board Guidelines  
<https://www.inuvwb.ca/applications/guidelines>
- GNWT – Lands Guidelines  
<https://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/en/regional-land-use-planning-guidelines-what-expect-government-northwest-territories-2016>
- *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.21/>  
<http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=9ec7cad2-0>
- (NT) *Waters Act* and Waters Regulations  
<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/waters/waters.a.pdf>
- (NT) *Lands Act* and Lands Regulations  
<https://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/en/policies-and-legislation>
- (YT) *Quartz Mining Act*  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/legislation/acts/qumi.pdf>











ROADMAP TO MINERAL EXPLORATION  
AND DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION

