

## Guide 5

# Terminology and Definitions

This guide is a companion document to the preceding four guides and provides the terms and definitions related to the NMRIRB and the screening, review and monitoring of projects in the Nunavik Marine Region.





Photo by Robbie Ningjruvik

This document is intended as a guide and as a public communications tool; it is not a NMRIRB governing document or legally binding. Proponents and parties before the NMRIRB are directed to review and rely on the provisions of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claim Agreement, the NMRIRB by-laws and the NMRIRB Rules of Procedures, as those documents legally binding and are the governing documents of the NMRIRB.

## **Authorization**

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

## **Authorizing Agency (AA)**

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Any Canadian or Nunavut Government department or agency, Makivik Designated Organization (MDO) or any other body that has the authority to issue a permit, lease, license or grant the approval required to allow a project or a component of a project to proceed. Authorizing agencies include but are not limited to regulatory authorities. Regulatory authorities include a Minister, a department or agency, a municipality or any other public body responsible for issuing a licence, permit or other authorization required by or under any other Act of Parliament or a territorial law for a project to proceed.

## **Board**

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The Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board (NMRIRB), established as an institution of public government under Article 7 of the Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA).

## **Cree Inuit Overlap Agreement**

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Means the Consolidated Agreement Relating to the Cree/Inuit Offshore Overlapping Interests Area Between the Crees of Eeyou Istchee and the Nunavik Inuit as incorporated into Article 28 of the NILCA and appended therein at Schedule 28-1.

## **Cumulative Environmental Assessment (CEA)**

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The assessment of impacts on the biophysical and socio-economic environment that results from the incremental effects of a development when added to other past, present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Future Developments, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other developments. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

## **Document**

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Includes any printed record and an audio, video or written record preserved in a fixed magnetic or digital form, including the information contained therein.



## **Ecosystem**

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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**

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

## **Elder**

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

## **Environment**

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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 (c) the interacting natural systems that include components referred to in (a) and (b).

It also includes the complex web of interrelationships between biotic and abiotic components which sustain all life on earth, including the social/health aspects of human group existence.

## **Environmental Effect**

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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 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.
2. **Indirect Effects** - result from cause-effect consequences of interactions between the environment and direct 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 activities, including activities associated with the project under assessment).

These changes occur over space and time and can be brought about by environmental effects that are additive or interactive. For example, hunting, oil spills, and loss of habitat, commercial fishing pressure on prey species, can affect marine mammals in the Arctic.

## **Environmental Assessment (EA)**

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Any of the following definitions could apply:

- The identification, description, assessment, and mitigation of the direct and indirect effects on: human beings, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape; the interaction of these factors; and on material assets, and the cultural heritage.
- A process for identifying, predicting, evaluating, and mitigating the relevant effects of proposed projects and physical activities prior to major decisions and commitments being made.
- A tool to use in integrated planning of development proposals, policies and programs.
- An activity designed to identify, predict, interpret and communicate information about impacts and mitigation measures of a proposed activities on human health and the well being of the ecosystem.

## **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

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(“Impact Statement” as used in the NILCA), an EIS refers to a documented assessment of the environmental and socio-economic consequences and recommended mitigative actions of any project proposal expected to have significant environmental consequences, which is prepared by the Proponent.

## **Grand Council of the Crees Designated Organization or GDO**

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Means the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) (GCC(EI)) or an organization designated by the GCC(EI) under Chapter 28 of the Eeyou Marine Regime Land Claims Agreement.

## **Hearing or Public Hearing**

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Any form of hearing associated with the Board's consideration of a project proposal, and can include a hearing on a motion, a pre-hearing conference, or a Public Hearing, whether conducted in the community, via teleconference or video conferencing or in writing.

## **Inuit Traditional Knowledge**

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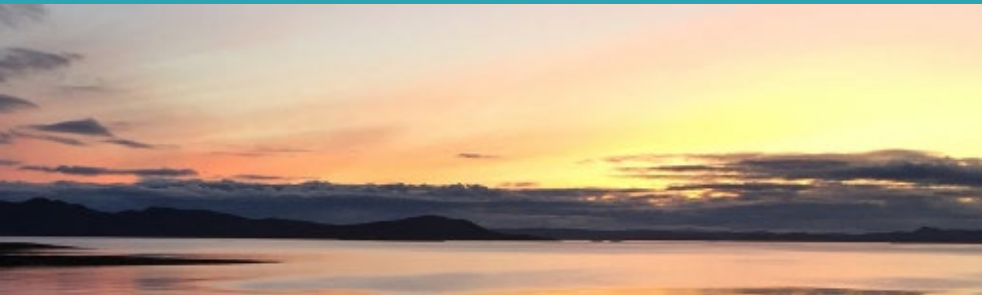
(Also includes Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, often referred to as Nunavik Inuit Knowledge, and or Cree Traditional Knowledge), means cumulative body of knowledge, practice and belief, evolving by adaptive processes and handed down through generations by cultural transmission of Inuit or other Indigenous Peoples.

## **Local Nunavimmi Umajulivijiit Katujiqatigininga or LNUK**

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Is a local hunters, fishermen and trapping associations referred to in Article 5, Part 7 of the NILCA.





### **Makivik Designated Organization (MDO)**

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Makivik Corporation, or in respect of a function under the NILCA, any of the organizations that has been designated under the NILCA Section 22.2 as responsible for that function.

### **Minister**

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Unless otherwise specified, means the federal or territorial Minister having the jurisdictional responsibility for authorizing a project to proceed; however, the Government of Canada and Territorial Government may, within their respective jurisdictions, designate a single Minister to be responsible for the NMRIRB and to perform all functions assigned to the Minister.

### **Mitigation**

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The actions taken including design, construction, schedule, and restorative measures, to control, reduce or eliminate a potential adverse environmental effect of a proposed activity or project.

### **Monitoring**

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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 the NMRIRB project certificates.

### **Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement (NILCA)**

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The land claims agreement signed on December 1, 2006, between the Nunavik Inuit and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, that was ratified, given effect and declared valid by the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement Act*, which came into force on February 14, 2008, and includes any amendments to that agreement made under it.

### **Nunavik Marine Region (NMR)**

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Is the portion of the Nunavik Inuit Settlement Area defined in Schedule 3-2 of Article 3 of the NILCA.

### **Party or Parties**

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Means participants involved in the Board's consideration of a project proposal or other Board Proceedings, who by law or by decision of the Board have defined participatory rights in the process. Parties may include the proponent, government departments or agencies, MDO's, individuals or organizations who have been given Party status by statute or the NILCA or by decision of the Board.

### **Project Certificate**

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Refers to a certificate of approval issued by the NMRIRB pursuant to Sections 7.5.12 and 7.6.17 of the NILCA. Such a certificate authorizes a project or a component of a project to proceed and contains specific terms and conditions which must be implemented.

### **Project Description**

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Refers to one of the required elements of a project proposal that describes all aspects of the planning, designing, construction, operation, ongoing restoration activities, decommissioning, and post-decommissioning phases of a project proposal.

### **Proponent**

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Means a person or entity, including a federal, provincial or territorial Minister, department or agency, a municipality or a designated Makivik organization, that proposes the carrying out of a project.

## **Public Registry**

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The place where documents and records gathered throughout a project review, or any Board process, are kept and made accessible to the public. The NMRIRB maintains hardcopies of records in the Kuujuaq office, and also electronic records on its website at <http://www.nmrirb.ca/registry/>.

## **Reasonably Foreseeable Future Developments**

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Those future projects or activities which are currently under regulatory review or will be submitted for regulatory review in the near future, as determined by the existence of a proposed project description, letter of intent, or any regulatory application filed with an authorizing agency.

## **Regional Nunavimmi Umajulivijiit Katujiqatigininga or RNUK**

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Is the regional hunters, fishermen and trapping associations referred to in Article 5, Part 7 of the NILCA.

## **Screening**

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Is the process defined in part 7.4 of the NILCA wherein an evaluation of a project proposal is conducted by the NMRIRB to determine if a review is required under Part 7.5 or 7.6, and if so, what type of review is required.

## **Scoping**

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A process that begins early in the environmental assessment, involving all affected Parties that pinpoints significant issues warranting study and analysis. An activity which 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.

## **Socio-Economic Effects**

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Refers to any of a variety of social and economic effects, including impacts upon the local economy, health, demographics, traditional way of life, cultural well-being, social life, archaeological resources, existing services and infrastructure.

## **Sustainable Development**

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

## **Transboundary Impacts**

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Environmental effects / impacts which occur across provincial, territorial, or international boundaries.

## **Valued Ecosystem Components (VECs)**

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Those aspects of the environment considered to be of vital importance to a particular region or community, including:

- Resources that are either legally, politically, publicly or professionally recognized as important, such as parks, land selections, and historical sites.
- Resources that have ecological importance.
- Resources that have social importance.

## **Valued Socio-Economic Components (VSECs)**

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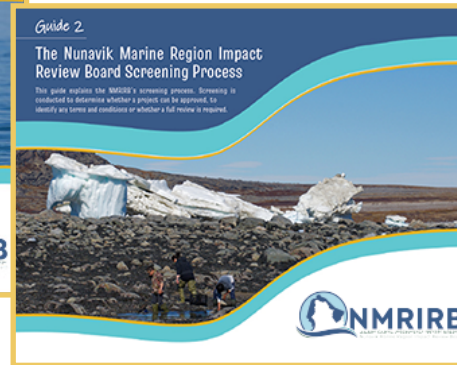
Those aspects of the socio-economic environment considered to be of vital importance to a particular region or community, including components relating to the local economy, health, demographics, traditional way of life, cultural well-being, social life, archaeological resources, existing services and infrastructure, and community and local government organizations.



# What Additional Information Regarding the NMRIRB EA Process is Available?



Guide 1: Overview



Guide 2: Screening Process



Guide 3: Review Process



Guide 4: Project Monitoring

## Contact the NMRIRB

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