



**Inuvialuit Water Board
Annual Report
April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023**

1.0 Overview

The mandate of the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) is described in the *Waters Act* (s. 24) as being: *“To provide for the conservation, development and utilization of waters in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit for all Canadians in general and, in particular, for the residents of the portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region [ISR] located in the Northwest Territories for which the Board is authorized to issue licences.”*

While the IWB operates within the authority and direction of the *Waters Act* and *Waters Regulations*, its activities are also subject to the requirements of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA). The IWB may not issue a water licence unless the provisions of the IFA environmental impact screening and review process have been complied with. IWB members consider the results of this assessment process when reviewing and determining whether a water licence should be issued and, if so, the terms and conditions of the licence.

Once a water licence is issued, inspection and enforcement of the terms and conditions of the licence is the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR).

2.0 IWB Board Membership and Operations

The IWB is composed of a Board, made up of five members, including a Chairperson and an administrative structure established to support the IWB's mandated activities. The GNWT Minister of ENR appoints board members. Two members of the Board are appointed based upon the nomination of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), and one member of the Board is appointed on the nomination of the federal Minister. All members of the Board hold office for a term of three years.

The Chairperson of the Board serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the IWB.

As of March 31, 2023, the members of the IWB were:

Mr. Richard Binder, Chairperson
Mrs. Elizabeth Arey, member
Mr. Herbert Felix, member
Mr. Gerald Inglangasuk, member
Mr. Brian Chambers, member

During the year the Board met four (4) times as follows:

Meeting #460	June 16, 2022	Inuvik
Meeting #461	August 23 - 25, 2022	Inuvik
Meeting #462	November 15, 2022	Inuvik
Meeting #463	February 8, 2023	Teleconference

3.0 IWB Operations

Based in Inuvik, NT, the IWB administrative personnel are members of the GNWT Public Service. The staff members are:

- Mardy Semmler – Executive Director
- Bijaya Adhikari, PhD – Science and Regulatory Coordinator
- Delores Harley - IWB Office Administrator – casual from December 5, 2022
- Vacant – IWB Communications and Public Outreach Officer

The IWB operates based upon a fiscal year that matches that of the GNWT – April 1 through March 31 of the following calendar year. Core funding for IWB activities is provided through a contribution agreement between the GNWT (ENR) and the IWB. In addition, in any particular year, the IWB may also receive financial support from various organizations, governments or government departments and / or agencies for specific projects or activities. During 2022 - 2023 the IWB received \$939,000 under the contribution agreement with ENR. In addition, in-kind contribution for office facilities with a value of \$61,693 was provided by GNWT Infrastructure (INF).

Financial details related to IWB activities during the past year are outlined in the IWB's 2022 - 2023 audited financial statements. The IWB's external auditor for the fiscal year was Crowe MacKay LLP, chartered accountants, located in Yellowknife, NT. The financial statements are enclosed with this report.

In support of its mandate, the IWB has established standardized rules and procedures for the licensing process. These include documentation to guide administrative licensing matters as well as specific rules to guide the conduct of water licence application reviews and assessments. This information is publicly available through the IWB website (www.inuvwb.ca).

4.0 IWB Water Licensing Activities 2022 – 2023

Water Licensing

The IWB issues Type A and Type B Water Licences. A determination of the type of licence to be issued is largely dependent upon the volume of water used and the types of waste disposed of during a licenced activity.

In general terms:

- Type A Water Licences – are issued for larger scale industrial and commercial developments such as the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.
- Type B Water Licences – are issued for municipalities' water/waste services and smaller scale activities including most environmental clean-up projects.

As of March 31, 2023, there were twelve (12) active water licences. The active licences are within the following categories:

- Municipal: 5
- Industrial: 5
- Miscellaneous: 2

Type A or B Water Licences Issued (New)

- There were no new licences issued during this fiscal year.

Type A or B Water Licences Issued (Renewed):

- Type B Municipal Water Licence N7L3-1531, was renewed and issued to the Hamlet of Sachs Harbour on November 17, 2022. This licence renewed a prior licence and authorized the use of water and the deposit of waste for municipal services in the community. The terms and conditions of the licence allow for the use of the existing water treatment plant and the solid and sewage waste disposal facilities operated by the Hamlet for a five-year period.

Prior to licence renewal the IWB Board and senior staff members visited the community of Sachs Harbour, toured the fresh-water intake and water treatment plant, solid and sewage waste disposal facilities and met with the Hamlet Mayor and councillors as well as the Hamlet's operations staff to discuss a broad range of issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community. The ENR Water Resources Officer sent his regrets as he could not participate in the annual community tour.

Type A or B Water Licence Assignment, Cancellation or Amendment

- The IWB did not assign, cancel, or amend any water licences during this reporting period.

Type A or B Water Licences Expiring During the Year

- N3L1-1839 – Hamlet of Aklavik – Bridge and Culvert Project
- N3L8-1838 – NTPC – Aklavik old Power Plant Site – Remediation Project

Licence Management Activities

In addition to processing licence applications, the IWB is charged with reviewing and approving management plans associated with licences and reviewing annual reports for completeness from licence holders. The IWB also receives water licence inspection reports submitted by the ENR Water Resources Officer and places the reports on the Public Register. During the year the following activities related to this responsibility occurred.

Management Plan approvals

- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil Environmental and Property Solutions – Tuk Base, NWT
 - Spill Contingency Plan;
 - Dock Repair and Removal Monitoring Plan;
 - Reclamation, Closure and Monitoring Plan; and
 - Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan.
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada – Camp Farewell Remediation Project
 - Emergency Response and Spill Contingency Plan (updated); and
 - Barge Waste Management Plan (updated)

Annual and Sump Monitoring Reports Reviewed

- N7L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – 2020 Annual Report
- N7L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – 2021 Annual Report
- N7L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – 2022 Annual Report
- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk – 2021 Annual Report

- N7L3-1525 – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok – 2021 Annual Report
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF - ITH – 2021 - 2022 Annual Report
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada, Camp Farewell – 2021 Annual Report
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada, Camp Farewell – 2022 Annual Report
- N7L1-1836 – Imperial Oil Resources, Tununuk Point / BAR-C 2022 Annual Report
- N5L8-1837 – Repsol Oil and Gas Canada Inc. – 2022 Annual Report
- N7L1-1815 – MGM Energy Corporation – Unipkat M-45/Kumak 1-25 2021 Annual Report
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil – Tuk Base Remediation Project 2022 Annual Report

Inspection Reports Received

- No Inspection Reports were received during the fiscal year.

5.0 Other IWB Activities

During this fiscal year, the IWB engaged in additional activities in support of its mandate. These included:

World Water Day

Initiatives identified in the IWB's Communications Strategy included public education and awareness projects dealing with water and waste management. The IWB presented information regarding World Water Day to the Mayor and Council of Sachs Harbour during their visit in August 2022. The IWB were not able to engage with students and staff of the Unualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour this fiscal year as the school was undergoing remediation projects due to mold issues. The IWB anticipates engaging with students and staff of the Unualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour during the upcoming fiscal year.

Involvement in Meetings and Conferences

IWB Board members and staff are regularly asked to participate in meetings and conferences related to the IWB mandate. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, numerous meetings were held to ensure staff safety and return to work initiatives. Some of the meetings and conferences attended in the past year include:

- Inuvik Arctic Expo Development Workshop – June 2022
- GNWT INF – ITH Working Group – October 2022
- Pan Territorial Board Forum – November 2022
- NWT Board Forum – February 2023
- Arctic Energy and Resource Symposium – March 2023

Activities with other Regulatory Boards within the NWT

The IWB has continued to communicate and collaborate with other regulatory boards within the Mackenzie Valley and the ISR on areas of common interest related to water and waste licencing.

Other Administrative and Board Activities

The IWB held its 7th Municipal Water and Waste Management Workshop in Inuvik March 1 – 2, 2023. Participants included Mayors, Senior Administration Officers and Water and Waste Management Staff from the Hamlets of Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour. Other participants included representatives from GNWT Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs and Environment and Natural Resources who have a role providing

assistance and / or information to municipal governments for water and waste management. The IWB also invited the Inuvialuit Land Administration Director who provided information regarding municipal water and waste management facility locations on Inuvialuit Private Lands. He also clarified ongoing discussions with the respective government departments regarding the transfer of these lands to municipal governments.

As required by the GNWT Planning and Accountability Framework (PAF) and the *Finance Administration Act* SNWT 2015 c.13, the IWB is mandated to complete an independent Review and Evaluation of the Activities, Roles and Decision-Making processes every five years. The first independent review was completed in March 2018 by Avery Cooper. Through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, Avery Cooper was again contracted to complete this responsibility on behalf of the IWB. Avery Cooper provided a final report on March 31, 2023. The Review and Evaluation of the Activities, Roles and Decision Making of the IWB Final Report including Recommendations was submitted to the Minister of ENR on April 21, 2023

As required under the *Waters Act*, the IWB maintains a Public Register (all documents related to all water licence applications, licensing and reporting). The Public Register is housed in the Inuvik IWB office. A copy of the Public Register can be accessed on-line through the IWB website (www.inuvwb.ca).

Throughout the year, in addition to fulfilling its core-mandated responsibilities, the IWB channelled significant time and effort in communicating with and discussing issues of shared interest or concern with communities and other regional and territorial bodies holding contributing responsibilities in the overall management of the regional and territorial environment. This beneficial sharing of information and broad coordination of approach and effort will continue throughout 2023 - 2024.

6.0 Areas of Focus for 2023 / 2024

During the 2023 / 2024 year the IWB will focus on the following priorities:

- As per Goal 1 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue its efforts to monitor and improve the efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness of all licensing processes; will develop or update policies and procedures that reflect best practices and are generally consistent with other jurisdictions; and will engage in regulatory improvement processes and discussions related to water and waste management.
- As per Goal 2 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue to implement its Communications Strategy to ensure all parties are aware of the IWB's processes, decisions and actions and the responsibilities of applicants and licence holders – including, but not limited to, the development of information fact sheets, pamphlets and brochures for general distribution. The IWB will also host the 8th Municipal Water and Waste Management Workshop for ISR municipal governments to ensure Mayors and Hamlet Staff are aware of their collective roles and responsibilities regarding municipal water licences.
- As per Goal 3 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue to work in partnership with government, resource management boards and communities with the aim of collaboratively enhancing community awareness and capacity in effective water use and waste management.
- As per Goal 4 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will review its staffing requirements to ensure the IWB is functioning efficiently and effectively.

- In advance of considering a renewal of the community of Tuktoyaktuk municipal water licence (expiring November 2023), Board members and senior staff will tour the community's municipal water and waste management facilities and meet with the Mayor, Council members and senior operations staff to discuss issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community. The IWB will also present the water licence terms and conditions in detail to give the community leadership and staff the opportunity to ask questions and get clarification on any aspects of the licence.

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