



**Inuvialuit Water Board
Annual Report
April 1, 2019 – March 31, 2020**

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 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 Inuvialuit Final Agreement (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 license should be issued and, if so, the terms and conditions of the license.

Once a water license is issued, the 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 on 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, 2020, the members of the IWB were:

- Mr. Roger Connelly, Chairperson
- Mr. Richard Binder, member
- Mr. Mark Cleveland, member
- Mrs. Elizabeth Arey, member
- Mr. Louis Covello, alternate member

During the year the Board met seven (7) times as follows:

Meeting 442	April 12, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting 443	June 6, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting 444	August 20 – 22, 2019	Inuvik, NT
Meeting 445	October 10, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting 446	November 29, 2019	Teleconference
Meeting 447	January 30, 2020	Teleconference
Meeting 448	February 17, 2020	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
- Freda Wilson – Office Administrator
- Bijaya Adhikari, PhD – Science and Regulatory Coordinator
- Vacant (August 18, 2019) – IWB Regulatory Officer

The IWB operates based upon a fiscal year that matches that of the GNWT – April through March 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 2019 - 2020 the IWB received \$913,000 under the contribution agreement with ENR. In addition, in-kind contribution for office facilities with a value of \$61,693 was provided by GNWT.

Financial details related to IWB activities during the past year are outlined in the IWB's 2019 - 2020 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 licensing rules and procedures. 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).

To promote public understanding of the mandate and ongoing activities of the IWB, a newsletter is published on a periodic basis. The IWB Newsletter of July 2019 was distributed to GNWT and Federal departments, Inuvialuit organizations and other stakeholders. The newsletter can also be viewed on the IWB website.

4.0 IWB Water Licensing Activities 2019 – 2020

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 waste disposed during a licensed 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, 2020, there were fifteen (15) active water licences and twenty-one (21) expired water licences for which no ENR inspections had been completed. Discussions with ENR regarding the need and process for final inspections and formal licence closures are ongoing.

Type A or B Water Licences Issued (New)

- Type B Licence N5L8-1840 was issued to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on April 15, 2019 to complete the Causeway Repair Project at the Mould Bay Weather Station on Prince Patrick Island.
- Type B Licence N5L8-1841 was issued to Imperial Oil Environmental and Property Solutions on July 10, 2019 to complete the Tuk Base Remediation Project.
- Type B Licence N5L1-1841 was issued to Government of the NWT Department of Infrastructure on January 31, 2020 to complete the culvert removal and bridge installation project at Gunghi Creek on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.
- Type B Licence N3L8-1842 was issued to Government of the NWT Department of Infrastructure (GNWT INF) on February 17, 2020 to complete the drainage improvement project at the Aklavik Freddy Carmichael Airport.
- Type B Licence N3L8-1844 was issued to Northwestel (NWTel) Incorporated on February 17, 2020 to complete the Taglu Microwave Site Asset Removal Project.

Type A or B Water Licences Issued (Renewed):

- Type B Licence N3L3-00570, was renewed and issued to the Hamlet of Aklavik on October 10, 2019. 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 license allow for the use of the existing water treatment plant and the solid and sewage waste disposal facilities operated by the Hamlet.

Prior to licence renewal the IWB Board and senior staff members visited the community of Aklavik, toured the fresh water intake, solid and sewage waste

disposal facilities and met with the hamlet Deputy Mayor and councillors and 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 also accompanied the Board on the community tour.

- Type B Licence N3L8-1838 was renewed and issued to the Northwest Territories Power Corporation on November 29, 2019 for the remediation of the Aklavik former power plant site. Upon review of site remediation data, the IWB initiated this licence renewal on its own initiative pursuant to Section 36 (1) (a) (ii) of the *Waters Act*. Apart from providing an additional three (3) years for the continuation of the bioremediation project, all other terms and conditions of the licence remain unchanged.
- Type B Licence N7L1-1836, issued to Imperial Oil Resources, was extended by three months by the Board on February 17, 2020 to allow Imperial Oil additional time to submit a renewal application for the continuation of the Bar C/Tununuk Point Remediation Project.

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

- No Type A or B Water Licences expired during the fiscal year.

Licence Management Activities

In addition to processing licence applications, the IWB is charged with reviewing and approving management plans associated with licences, as well as reviewing water licence inspection reports and annual reports from licence holders. During the year the following activities related to this responsibility occurred.

Management Plan approvals

- N3L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – Municipal Water Licence
 - Solid Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan
 - Sewage Waste Disposal Facilities Operation and Maintenance Plan
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada Energy – Camp Farewell, NWT
 - Closure and Reclamation Plan (updated)
 - Barge Waste Management Plan
- N5L8-1840 – ECCC – Mould Bay, Prince Patrick Island, NWT
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan

- Water Management Plan
- Spill Contingency Plan
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil Environmental and Property Solutions – Tuk Base, NWT
 - Remedial Action Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Permafrost Monitoring Plan
 - Reclamation, Closure and Monitoring Plan
 - Dock Repair and Removal Plan
 - Wildlife Encounter Management Plan
 - Emergency Response Plan
- N3L8-1842 – GNWT INF Aklavik Freddy Carmichael Airport, Aklavik, NWT
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
 - Closure and Reclamation Plan
- N3L8-1844 – NWTel – Taglu Microwave Tower Site, Taglu, NWT
 - Spill Contingency Plan

Annual and Sump Monitoring Reports Reviewed

- N3L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – 2018 Annual Report
- N5L3-0714 – Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk – 2018 Annual Report
- N5L3-0714 – Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk – 2019 Annual Report
- N7L3-1525 – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok – 2018 Annual Report
- N7L3-1525 – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok – 2019 Annual Report
- N7L3-1531 – Hamlet of Sachs Harbour – 2018 Annual Report
- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk – 2018 Annual Report
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF - ITH – 2017 - 2018 Annual Report (revised)
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF - ITH
 - SNP 1835- 24AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-46AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-47AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-48AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-73 – lab results
 - SNP 1835-17AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-18AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-21AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-31AB – lab results
 - SNP 1835-37AB – lab results
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada, Camp Farewell – 2018 Annual Report
- N7L1-1836 – Imperial Oil Resources, Bar “C” - 2019 Annual Report
- N5L8-1837 – Repsol Oil and Gas Canada Inc. – Post Construction Information
- N3L8-1838 – Northwest Territories Power Corporation – Aklavik, NT

- 2019 Annual Report
- Remediation Compilation Report
- N5L8-1840 – ECCC – 2019 Annual Report

Inspection Reports Received and Reviewed

- N3L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik
- N5L8-0714 – Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk
- N7L3-1525 – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok
- N7L3-1531 – Hamlet of Sachs Harbour
- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk
- N7L1-1835 – GNWT INF – ITH
- N7L1-1836 – Imperial Oil Resources – Bar C/Tununuk Point
- N3L1-1710 – Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation – Ikhil Drilling Waste Sump
- N3L1-1727 – Inuvialuit Petroleum Corporation – Ikhil Camp Sump
- N3L8-1844 – NWTel – Taglu Microwave Tower Site

5.0 Other IWB Activities

During the year the IWB was engaged in a number of 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. During this fiscal year, the members continued supporting ongoing education efforts for both municipal council members and community residents in general, on responsibilities and impacts related to municipal water and waste management.

The IWB coordinated a World Water Day (WWD) event in the Hamlet of Aklavik. IWB staff visited Aklavik in October 2019 to present the WWD concept to Moose Kerr School staff and students, the municipal government and aboriginal organizations. Pamphlets and various information sheets outlining the proposed activities for WWD were provided to each of the organizations and each class at Moose Kerr School.

Similar to the 2019 World Water Day event, which was held in Tuktoyaktuk, educational and informative activities were completed for the Moose Kerr School students by World Water Day federal partners, Fisheries and Oceans and Parks Canada provided activities in both January and February 2020. IWB staff also returned to Aklavik and the Moose Kerr School in early March 2020 to post signs for the upcoming March 27, 2020 event within the community and deliver reusable World Water Day water bottles for each of the students and staff at Moose Kerr School.

With the Moose Kerr School closure and NWT State of Emergency for the COVID-19 Pandemic the IWB had to postpone the World Water Day event scheduled for March 27, 2020. This event may be rescheduled once Moose Kerr School resumes classes in the fall.

NWT Board Forum

IWB representatives attended a meeting of the NWT Board Forum in Fort Good Hope on June 18 – 19, 2019. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Sahtu Land and Water Board and the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board. The Board Forum provides an opportunity for senior representatives of regional and territorial environmental review, licensing/permitting, wildlife management and land use planning authorities to meet and discuss a broad range of issues related to their collective mandates.

Common objectives of the Forum include:

- a. Increasing mutual awareness among Forum members regarding their respective activities.
- b. Identifying and developing collaborative approaches to resolve issues of common concern.
- c. Collaborating on strategic and operational planning initiatives.
- d. Identifying opportunities to share resources and expertise.
- e. Providing a venue for Forum members to hear from industry, government and other interested parties on issues of common interest.
- f. Pursuing collaborative training and development initiatives.

Municipal Water and Waste Management Workshop

The Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) hosted the annual Municipal Water and Waste Management (MWWM) Workshop in Inuvik on February 12 – 13, 2020. The overall objective of this and previous workshops is to assist municipal governments in providing adequate, safe and reliable water and waste management services to their communities while ensuring the provision of these services does not have a negative impact on the receiving environment.

Specific objectives of this year's workshop were to:

- Increase collective awareness of current issues and concerns.
- Provide an effective forum for sharing information.
- Promote and support community understanding and compliance with water licensing requirements.
- Identify actions to address or mitigate concerns.

These objectives were advanced through interactive presentations from ENR and IWB including:

- the impacts of climate change on water and waste infrastructure and possible measures to adapt to these changes,
- inspection and enforcement of water licences and the role of the Water Resources Officer,
- building demolition procedures and proper management of demolition waste; and
- upcoming initiatives to celebrate World Water Day, Canada's Waste Reduction Week, updates on the ISR Waste Management Documentary project and community water/waste management initiatives and experiences.

The 2020 workshop was attended by representatives from the Hamlets of Aklavik, Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk, Tuktoyaktuk and Ulukhaktok, GNWT departments ENR and Health and Social Services, Aurora College, Inuvialuit Communications Society and representatives of the (IFA) Environmental Impact Screening Committee. GNWT departmental representatives from ENR provided presentations regarding their ongoing projects and activities related to the provision of municipal water and waste services.

IWB Communication Strategy

The IWB continues to implement components of its Communication Strategy. Activities during the year included an introduction to community organizations regarding the development of an Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) Waste Management Documentary. This documentary will showcase how residents of the ISR communities relate to and manage the various types of waste produced within their community and how these wastes can impact the quality of the water resources in their area.

Given the increasing world-wide recognition of the major environmental concerns resulting from unregulated waste disposal, MWWM workshop participants supported the development of such a documentary as a means to share thoughts and observations on this topic across the ISR, to increase the level of awareness of the environmental impacts of unregulated waste disposal, and advance broader community recognition of the importance of reducing, recycling and effectively managing the waste produced through everyday life in our communities.

As a community-based project, its measure of success will depend, in large part, on broad participation by community leaders, municipal organizations, businesses, and individuals and families of all ages. The project was planned to get underway in March 2020 with community discussions, led by IWB, to identify and guide how community residents should be approached to participate in the production of the documentary, the types of issues to be discussed, the listing of current concerns regarding the nature, management and impact of waste on their community, and how community members feel reduction, recycling and new management approaches can minimize the impacts of waste on their surrounding environment. The use of drones to capture certain aspects of community waste management will be included. Due to the impacts of Covid-19, implementation of this initiative has been delayed.

Involvement in Meetings and Conferences

IWB Board members and staff are regularly asked to participate in meetings and conferences related to the IWB mandate. Some of the meetings and conferences attended in the past year include:

- Arctic Development Expo (Inuvik) – June 10 – 12, 2019
- NWT Board Forum (Fort Good Hope) – June 18 – 19, 2019
- Pan Territorial Board Forum (Whitehorse) – October 7 – 10, 2019
- NWT Water Strategy Implementation Workshop (Yellowknife) – October 21 – 24, 2019

- Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soil Treatment Facilities Guideline - final working group meeting (teleconference) – October 2019
- Meetings with Stakeholders: (Inuvik)
 - Imperial Oil – Tuk Base
 - Japex – Sump Assessments and Reporting
 - Imperial Oil – Bar C / Tununuk Point
 - NWTel – Taglu Microwave Tower Site

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 Inuvialuit Settlement Region on areas of common interest related to water and waste licencing.

Other Administrative and Board Activities

The IWB completed a review and update of its strategic plan. The updated IWB Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 was approved by the Board in February 2020. This document was distributed to the ENR Minister and municipal governments in March 2020.

The IWB completed an independent Staffing Research Report. This report outlines the responsibilities required for the IWB to independently hire their own staff as provided for in the *Waters Act* section 104.

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 2020 - 2021.

6.0 Areas of Focus for 2020/2021

During the 2020/2021 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 clear 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 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 and fact sheets or brochures for general distribution.
- 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. Related initiatives will be rescheduled as permitted under the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 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.
- Follow up on commitments made during the 2020 Municipal Water and Waste Management Workshop and planning for the next Water and Waste Management Workshop in February 2021.
- In advance of considering a renewal of the community of Paulatuk water licence (expiring in November 2020), 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 staff to discuss issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community once the NWT State of Emergency for COVID-19 is lifted.

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