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March 1, 2026

Mr. Harry Flaherty  
President and CEO of Qikiqtaaluk Corporation  
Iqaluit, NU. X0A 0H0

Re: Nukkiksautiit Hydro-Electric Project – Position of the Council of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung

**1. Purpose of this letter**

This letter states the official position of the Council of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung regarding the Nukkiksautiit Hydro-Electric Project proposed by the Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation, subsidiary of the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and Group of Companies.

**2. Background / Context**

Representatives of the Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation have presented the concept and status of the development plans to the Council of the Hamlet of on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, and to the residents of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The proposed project involves the development of a 15–30 megawatt hydroelectric facility near Iqaluit on the Kuugaluk River (McKeand River South), which is upstream of Aukannilik, McKeand Irvine Inlet.

The benefits of the project will be exclusively for the City of Iqaluit with a potential minor financial benefit for residents of Nunavut, as a result of an anticipated reduction of expenses by the Government of Nunavut for the purchase of diesel fuel.

The Nukkiksautiit Hydro-Electric Project is of great concern for the residents, hunters, fishermen and the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, because it potentially has negative impacts on the food security, economy the mental health of individuals who have strong family and personal connections to the land impacted by the project. Furthermore, there will be a potential impact on the residential and commercial buildings and infrastructure of the Hamlet (e.g. harbour, waste management infrastructure) close to the waterfront, as well as an old cemetery, which will be affected by potentially higher water levels of the Pangnirtung Fjord because of this project.

### 3. Key Issues and Concerns

- a) The process of the decision to choose the Kugaaluk River as the preferred site of the project did not include a consultation with any organizations or the residents of Pangnirtung, and no representatives of Pangnirtung were at the table when this decision was made.
- b) Pangnirtung will be the community is impacted negatively in many aspects
- c) There are no significant benefits for the residents, hunters and the Hamlet of Pangnirtung.
- d) Conditions of the Nunavut Landclaims Agreement have not been considered.
- e) **Lack of Confidence and Trust:** The fact that the impact review is conducted primarily by the Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation is of considerable concern, since the control of data collected and published is in the hands of the company which stands to gain financial benefits of the projects.
- f) **No alternative solutions are being considered:** There are other ways of producing sustainable and environmentally friendly electricity which reduce the requirements of diesel fuel, e.g. solar energy and wind. We have not been provided with any research information on the development of these methods of energy production, which would not only benefit Iqaluit, but could benefit Pangnirtung and many other communities in Nunavut.  
Also, we have not been presented with potential alternative locations for a hydro-electric facility which would not have an impact on Pangnirtung.

### 4. Position

**The Council of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung opposes the development of the Kugaaluk site for the development of a hydro-electric facility.**

### 5. Requested Actions / Recommendations

- a) Any explorative or research activity at the Kugaaluk Rivers site will be stopped immediately.
- b) Representatives of Organizations of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung regarding this project will be included in future decisions regarding this project, and these representatives will have the right to veto recommendations made by other representatives on the decision-making body.
- c) Any potential further impact review studies will be conducted by an independent body, which has no conflict of interest in the project.

**6. Commitment**

The Council of the Hamlet of Pangnirtung are committed to working collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to support solutions that take into consideration the impacts of any feasible renewable energy project promote community well-being.

**7. Authorization**

**Authorized Signature:**

*M. Wilcke*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Markus Wilcke Acting Mayor, Hamlet of Pangnirtung

*March 1, 2026*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Cc:** Olayuk Akesuk, President QIA, Iqaluit  
Simeonie Keenainak, Chairperson, Hunters and Trappers Association, Pangnirtung  
Jacopie Maniapik, Chairperson, Cumberland Sound Fisheries, Ltd., Pangnirtung









development on the river that may change the ecosystem in any way and potentially affect the abundance or migration of Arctic char, other fish species as well as caribou and other wildlife.

In reviewing the materials that we have received, we note that there will be efforts to provide fish with a migration route around the dam. However, we are not satisfied that this will not have a negative impact on the fish migration as the fish may not adapt to the presence of the dam and artificial passageway around the dam. We also feel that the dam may affect fish populations such as the turbines killing small fish that are trying to migrate downstream. The dam itself, the presence of a reservoir, and the changes in downstream water flow will all have impacts on fish stocks and the habitat including the migration routes and rearing areas. We do not know the impact of these changes but we do not want to take any risks with our food supply and Arctic char stocks.

If addition to concerns about the changes to the river, we are concerned about the building of the road to the proposed dam site and reservoir as well as the proposed supplementary reservoir. These roads will increase access for the large population of Iqaluit to the headwaters of the McKeand River system and that may put increased pressure on the hunting and fishing of the fish and wildlife resources in the area between Pangnirtung and Iqaluit. This increased pressure could negatively affect the food supply and cultural activities for the people of Pangnirtung.

In conclusion, the Pangnirtung HTO is opposed to the proposed project on the McKeand River and will remain opposed until we are certain that there will be no negative impact on the river and our hunting and fishing.

Sincerely,

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**Simeonee Keenainak**  
**Chairperson**  
**Pangnirtung HTO**

cc. **Gabriel Nirlungayuk, NTI, Director, Department of Wildlife and Environment**  
**Kathy Martha Padluq, NTI, Director, Department of Marine**  
**Zoya Martin, GN, Director, Fisheries and Sealing Division**  
**Lootie Toomasie, Chair, Nunavut Water Board**





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Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd.  
PO Box 611  
Pangnirtung, Nunavut  
X0A-0R0

February 27, 2026

Susan Shaw, P.Eng.  
Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corp.  
5300 Qulliq Court, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
P.O. Box 1228  
Iqaluit, NU  
X0A 0H0  
Email: [nnc@qcorp.ca](mailto:nnc@qcorp.ca)

Dear Ms. Shaw,

This letter is regarding the proposed hydro dam project on the McKeand River operated by Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation under Qikiqtaaluk Corporation.

The Board of Directors of Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. Has agreed not to support this project due to long term future financial risk. McKeand River flows to lakes where there is commercial arctic char and it has the highest char commercial quota in Cumberland Sound, this can have negative impact to our fishermen and plant workers, we employ up to two hundred local plant workers and fishermen who heavily relies to put food on the table for their families, Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. Donates arctic char to Health center, 2 schools, Sailivik, RCMP staff, Hamlet Staff and local families. Cumberland Sound Fisheries is 100% Inuit owned and 99% of the employment is held by land claim beneficiaries. Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd. Is the main economic driver for the community of Pangnirtung.

Jacopie Maniapik

Chairperson

Cumberland Sound Fisheries Ltd.

cc. Gabriel Nirlungayuk, NTI Director, Department of Wildlife and Environment Kathy Martha Padluq, NTI, Director Department of Marine Zoya Martin, GN, Director Fisheries and sealing Division Lootie Toomasie, Chair, Nunavut water Board, Pangnirtung Hunters & Trappers Organization, Markus Wilcke Hamlet of Pangnirtung

North

## Pangnirtung MLA voices concerns over proposed Iqaluit hydro project

Johnny Mike says community has concerns about the Kuugaaluk River site for the proposed Iqaluit hydro project

[Bianca McKeown](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jan 30, 2026 5:00 AM EST | Last Updated: January 30



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Pangnirtung MLA Johnny Mike says his community has concerns about the Kuugaaluk River site for the proposed Iqaluit hydro project. (Sima Sahar Zerehi/CBC)

Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation (NNC)'s proposed hydro project is facing some backlash in Pangnirtung.

Over the past week, NNC conducted consultations in Iqaluit and Pangnirtung over the plan to build a 15-to-30 megawatt hydropower plant.

In November, Prime Minister Mark Carney added the project to a list of "nation-building" projects he's recommending for quicker approval by the government's Major Projects Office. NNC is eyeing a possible site 60 kilometres northwest of Iqaluit by the Kuugaaluk River.

But Pangnirtung MLA Johnny Mike says there's misinformation surrounding what support Pangnirtung's hamlet, hunters and trappers organization (HTO) and Panniqtuurmiut at large have given the project.

Mike says he has many environmental concerns about the project and its effects on the commercial fishery businesses who rely on the river.

"We depend on the fish like char for recreational and commercial [use]," he said. "There's abundance of wildlife in that area that will be negatively impacted."

Mike says he also has concerns about the impact survey being done. He says the Qikiqtani Inuit Association supported Kuugaaluk as the location for a survey without consulting Panniqtuurmiut.

"The Pang people at the meeting last year never supported the survey. I also did not support it to a point where I thought that survey wasn't going on," Mike said. "But it happened in Kuugaaluk this past summer and it was kind of mind blowing."

***WATCH | Pangnirtung MLA voices concerns over proposed NNC hydro project:***



Pangnirtung MLA voices concerns over proposed NNC hydro project

▶ January 28 | 3:02

Pangnirtung's MLA says there's misinformation surrounding what support Pangnirtung's hamlet, hunters and trappers organization, and residents have given Nunavut Nukkiksautit Corporation's proposed hydro project. CBC's Bianca McKeown reports.

## **NNC says it's listening to concerns**

The manager of strategy and engagement at NNC, Jess Puddester, said NNC met with the hamlet and HTO last May and received "good feedback" for doing data collection studies at Kuugaaluk.

She said all the studies that took place at Kuugaaluk in 2025 were permitted and approved by the required regulatory bodies, including the Nunavut Planning

Puddester said NNC is listening to Panniqtuurmiut concerns about the changes to the river and land at the river's outlet and impacts to fish. She also defended the site selection process, which included public consultation in Iqaluit, but not Pangnirtung.

"There's many years before we come to a decision point around if this project proceeds. It's early in the process," she said. "We're only studying and we can't be in a position to even ask Inuit if it makes sense to proceed with this project until we've brought together all those very valid concerns and we've studied them."

Puddester said NNC is still working to see what the impacts of the project could be before going to Inuit leadership at QIA and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation for direction.



Mike says he does support the clean energy project, he just wants the Kuugaaluk location to be changed.

"We know the survey can be reposition[ed] to another location in the perimeter of [the] City of Iqaluit," he said.

Puddester said studies started in September 2024 looking at the river flow at Kuugaaluk and the data from these impact studies will be released during public information sessions in early March.

There are still two more phases that need to be passed and approved by Inuit leadership before any construction will be considered, she said.

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