









# Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project

## Consultation Summary

The **Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project** aims to enhance the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of Iqaluit, Nunavut, through the development and implementation of key community-driven initiatives. A primary focus of the Project is the construction of a **15 MW capacity waterpower facility** that will provide a reliable, renewable energy source to meet the growing needs of Iqaluit while aligning with sustainable energy practices.

The Project’s primary objective is to create long-term benefits for Iqalungmiut and the broader Qikiqtani region by focusing on the following key areas:

- 1. Community Engagement & Inuit Involvement:** A central focus of the Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project is to ensure active and meaningful participation of Inuit residents in all aspects of the Project. This includes leveraging the knowledge and skills of local Inuit firms, providing career development opportunities for youth, and promoting Inuit-led solutions to community challenges. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the capacity of local businesses and creating opportunities for professional growth and skills transfer.
- 2. Waterpower Facility Development:** The core of the Project involves the design and construction of a **15 MW capacity waterpower facility**, which will harness the natural energy of local water resources to provide clean, renewable electricity to Iqaluit. This facility will replace the diesel power plant as the prime power source in Iqaluit. This will reduce the community’s dependence on diesel power generation, lowering both dependence on the South and environmental impacts, and contribute to long-term energy sustainability. The Project will ensure that the facility is designed with the latest technologies, adhering to industry standards while considering the environmental and cultural needs of the region.
- 3. Infrastructure Development & Improvement:** In addition to the waterpower facility, the Project will include the development and improvement of key infrastructure within Iqaluit, particularly in areas that support community well-being, such as public facilities, transportation systems, and housing. This infrastructure development will take into account the unique environmental and cultural needs of the region, ensuring that sustainable materials and methods are used throughout the Project lifecycle.
- 4. Cultural Heritage and Education:** The Iqaluit Nukkiqsautiit Project will prioritize the preservation and promotion of Inuit cultural heritage. This will include the establishment of educational programs for contractors that teach the history, language, and traditions of Inuit communities to ensure culture context is understood and respected. The Project will incorporate and abide by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit throughout each phase with a focus on consent to continue development given by the community at each decision gate. The Project will also foster collaboration with local schools and cultural institutions to ensure that Inuit youth are able to connect with their heritage and learn in a supportive environment.

5. **Environmental Sustainability:** Recognizing the critical importance of environmental conservation in the Arctic, the Project will be guided by principles of environmental stewardship. The Project has a responsibility to align with environmental stewardship principals, which subsequently have aligned to date with requirements set out by Rightsholding Organizations. The construction of the waterpower facility will be carefully managed to minimize any potential negative impact on local ecosystems and wildlife. Sustainable practices will be embedded in every stage, from planning through to execution, to ensure the protection of the environment. Efforts will focus on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and the preservation of natural habitats.
6. **Economic Development and Job Creation:** A key component of the Project is the stimulation of Iqaluit's local economy. By supporting Inuit businesses, fostering entrepreneurship, and providing training and employment opportunities, the Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project will contribute to reducing unemployment and building a resilient economy. The development of the waterpower facility will create both short-term construction jobs and long-term operational roles, ensuring ongoing economic benefits for the community and enabling the participation of Inuit in energy infrastructure ownership.
7. **Capacity Building & Workforce Development:** The Project will focus on developing the skills of Iqalungmiut particularly Inuit youth, in areas such as construction, Project management, energy generation, and environmental monitoring. Special attention will be given to mentorship programs and hands-on training that provide job-ready skills and qualifications that benefit both individuals and the community. The operation of the waterpower facility will also offer ongoing career development opportunities in energy and environmental fields.

The **Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project** is a transformative initiative that will not only provide a sustainable, reliable, renewable energy source to Iqaluit but will also contribute to the social, cultural, and economic prosperity of the Territory. Through meaningful Inuit involvement and the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, this Project will help shape the future of Iqaluit and serve as a model for community-driven, sustainable development in the Arctic.

## Project History

The Project is classified according to the Phase-Gate system (shown in Figure 1), which helps mitigate risk, and ensure the optimal solution is carried through, and ensures free, prior, and informed consent from Inuit Leadership and Beneficiaries under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. This approach to Project development is broken down into phases, which are separated by decision gates. The phases constitute development work including the execution and completion of key activities and deliverables. The gates are decision checkpoints, whereby the Project does not proceed to the following phase until agreement and signed approval from all key Project decision makers.



## Key Consultation Activities

### Historic Major Consultation Activities

Date	Audience	Discussion Topic	Outcome
<b>December 2021</b>	Iqaluit CLARC	Introduction to Renewable Energy and Waterpower	6+ Attendees, General Interest in Renewable Energy + particular interest in impacts/benefits
<b>October 2022</b>	Iqaluit, Panniqtuuq, Kimmirut Rightsholders, Nunavut Regulatory Bodies, Nunavut Stakeholders	Formal Notification of the Commencement of Early-Stage Feasibility Studies	Letters sent from QIA and NNC to Rightsholding Organizations, stakeholders, and Regulatory Bodies to notify them of the Project
<b>December 2022 – January 2023</b>	Elders and Hunters in Iqaluit	Tusaqtavut Interviews – Inuit land-use around Iqaluit	48 Participants, Firelight authored a 200+ page Report titled: Qikiqtani Inuit Association’s Tusaqtavut Study specific to Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation’s Potential Renewable Energy Development. Included is a geo-referenced array of mapped Inuit land-use practices around Iqaluit was produced, giving a sense of density (spatial) and frequency (temporal) of Inuit land-use.
<b>June 2023</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Renewable Energy 101 at Formal Consultation Meeting	10+ Attendees, General Interest in Renewable Energy
<b>June 2023</b>	Iqaluit Public	Renewable Energy 101 at Formal Consultation Meeting	40+ Attendees, General Interest in Renewable Energy
<b>November 2023</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Formal Consultation Meeting	10+ Attendees, Votes Received
<b>November 2023</b>	Iqaluit Public	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Formal Consultation Meeting	50+ Attendees, Votes Received
<b>November 2023</b>	Inuksuk High School	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Formal Class	30+ Attendees, Votes Received
<b>November 2023</b>	Nunavut Arctic College	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Through Environmental Tech Instructor	Votes Received

<b>November + December 2023</b>	Iqaluit Public	Presentation of 16 Options + Vote at Informal Sessions held at Iqaluit Museum 4x	20+ People Stopped by, Votes Received
<b>March 2024</b>	QIA Board	Presentation of Results of Vote + Request for Motion to Support Proceeding to Phase 3	Motion Approved to Support Advancing to Phase 3
<b>March 2024</b>	Inuksuk High School Students	Presentation for World Water Week	50+ Attendees; provided an overview of the importance of waterpower and renewable energy more broadly in mitigating the impacts of climate change
<b>June 2024</b>	QEC Board	Presentation on Phase 2 + Plans for Phase 3	Board Resolution passed to support QEC and NNC collaborating on the Project in Phase 3
<b>July 2024</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Lessons Learned from Inukjuak Hydro – Site Visit	Representatives from QIA, Amaruq HTA, Youth, QC, Participated in Site Visit to Inukjuak to Learn about Community-Scale Hydro from Inuit in Inukjuak
<b>January 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Project Update + Road Routing Workshop	Board Attended, Feedback Received on How to Improve Communication on Project Moving Forward, Board Raised Concerns on Potential Environmental Impacts if Project were to be Constructed (Phase 5)
<b>January 2025</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Project Update + Question on Goals (Electrical, Electrical + Thermal, or Electrical + Industrial) at Formal Consultation Meeting	15+ Attendees, Feedback Received on Interest to Explore all Options, though Potential Environmental Impacts Must be Identified + Mitigated if the Project were to Proceed to Construction (Phase 5)
<b>January 2025</b>	Iqaluit Public	Project Update + Question on Goals (Electrical, Electrical + Thermal, or Electrical + Industrial) at Formal Consultation Meeting	65+ Attendees, Feedback Received on Interest to Explore all Options, though Potential Environmental Impacts Must be Identified + Mitigated if the Project were to Proceed (Phase 5)
<b>January 2025</b>	Inuksuk High School Students	Project Update + Question on Goals (Electrical, Electrical + Thermal, or Electrical + Industrial)	40+ Attendees, questions about hydro infrastructure, access road, and general support for the Project received
<b>March 2025</b>	Rightsholders	Flyover of Project Site with Rightsholder + Federal	12+ Attendees, Visual Representation of Project Location Provided from Air in Twin Otter

		Representatives	
<b>March 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Community Lands and Resources Committee	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting	6+ Attendees, Feedback Received on How to Improve Communication on Project Moving Forward, Concerns Raised on Potential Environmental Impacts if Project were to be Constructed (Phase 5), Benefits Need to be Better Clarified
<b>March 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Public	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting	30+ Attendees, Feedback Received on How to Improve Communication on Project Moving Forward, Concerns Raised on Potential Environmental Impacts if Project were to be Constructed (Phase 5), Benefits Need to be Better Clarified
<b>March 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Project Update at Annual General Meeting	75+ Attendees, Feedback Received on General Interest for More Frequent Project Updates, Clarity on Current Status only being Studies was Helpful
<b>March 2025</b>	GN Premier	Formal Meeting to Provide Project Updates	3+ GN Premier's Office Attendees; questions around the timeline for the project and opportunities to accelerate in alignment with political timelines (ie, shovel-ready within current government's timeline)
<b>May 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq HTO	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting + Co-development of field data collection programs	10+ Attendees, Feedback received on data collection programs: in alignment with hunters' priorities and major concerns. No changes or additions to the methodologies or study targets requested. Reiteration of concerns around potential environmental impacts, and the importance of protecting the commercial fishery and the lands and waters that Panniqtuumiut depend on and have frequented for generations. Acknowledgement received on the need for Nunavummiut to transition away from diesel and towards renewable energy. Requests for more information, data sharing, and notification of all job opportunities.
<b>May 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Council	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting	12+ attendees, General support for the field data collection programs, and providing more information. An

			expressed desire for youth to be involved in the field work and all opportunities connecting to the Project. Acknowledgement of misinformation on the Project to date, and the clarifications provided by NNC.
<b>May 2025</b>	QIA Staff	Project Overview Presentation at Formal Meeting	6+ attendees, good interest in the Project development process to date, many staff unaware of the details provided. Interest in more regular Project briefings available to QIA staff.
<b>May 2025</b>	Minister Responsible for QEC / QIA	Formal Meeting to provide Project Updates	2x GN/QEC Attendees + 4x QIA Attendees; overview of project provided along with plans for 2025 field season; questions around GN/QEC role in Project, working relationship between GN/QEC and NNC.
<b>June 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Project Update at Formal Consultation Meeting	7+ attendees; shared the plans for the 2025 field season; questions asked around general project planning, impacts of the project if it were to proceed, ownership of the data collected in the field; requests for regular updates in the field season
<b>August through September 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA + Panniqtuuq HTO	Weekly Project Updates sent via E-mail	Distribution of weekly updates from the aquatics, archaeology, terrestrial wildlife, and geophysical teams on the activities taking place at the temporary camp at Kuugaaluk and the surrounding study areas. Notification of scheduled and targeted helicopter fly times were provided.
<b>September and October 2025</b>	Public	Social Media Posting	Summaries of field data collection program activities from the summer, shared with photographs including contractors and Inuit guides.
<b>September 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Coordination with Amaruq HTA for Field Site Visit	5+ members of the Amaruq HTA visited the site at Kuugaaluk to make direct in-person observations near the river and the temporary camp. Participants were able to share their knowledge with their fellow board members and membership.
<b>September</b>	Amaruq HTA	Coordination with Amaruq HTA for	Repairs made to the VHF radio infrastructure, using the

<b>2025</b>		Using Helicopter for Radio Tower Repairs	NNC-contracted helicopter. Amaruq HTA shared a social media post thanking NNC for their teamwork and support.
<b>October 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq HTO	Informal Project Updates	2+ participants; NNC staff member visited Panniqtuuq to connect with Hamlet and HTA leadership on scheduling meetings and advertising for the Inuit Advisory Committee. Feedback received on mounting community concerns about potential environmental impacts that stand unaddressed.
<b>November 2025</b>	QIA	Formal Meeting to Kickoff IIBA Negotiations	5+ attendees from QIA; review of the draft IIBA outline, review of Project's history and the needs previously identified around potential impacts and benefits in connection to other development sites, agreement on the need to hire community liaisons specifically for this Project, agreement on a potentially shorter negotiation timeline, given the collaborative nature of NNC and QIA relationship, agreement on a desire to customize and maximize benefits-sharing plans to meet the goals and needs of Iqalungmiut and Panniqtuumiut.
<b>November 2025</b>	Amaruq HTA	Presentation at Special AGM (open to membership) reviewing High Level Field Season Results	60+ attendees; overview of project provided along with high level results from 2025 field season; questions asked around impacts + benefits sharing, site selection process, and impacts to Panniqtuuq.
<b>November 2025</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Director of Infrastructure	Informal Project Updates	3x detailed e-mails explaining the status of the project, intentions for 2026 field season, summary of the previous phases, engagement planning, 2025 field season work.
<b>December 2025</b>	Nunavummiut	Nunatsiaq News Op-Ed	A letter written by QC and NNC CEO and President Harry Flaherty was published – clarity offered around what it does and does not mean for the Project to be named to the federal government's Nation Building Projects List.
<b>December 2025</b>	GN Premier Principle Secretary	Project Update for New Government	GN Premier Principle Secretary + 4x QIA attendees; overview of Project provided along with plans for 2026 field season + commercial agreement negotiations with

			QEC
<b>December 2025</b>	NTI	Monthly Meetings with NU-Identified Projects of National Importance	Commencement of Monthly Meetings with 4x Projects of National Importance in Nunavut identified by GN/NTI
<b>January 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Director of Infrastructure + Acting SAO	Field Season Reports	5x Field Season Reports (environmental, geotechnical) provided to Panniqtuuq Hamlet Director of Infrastructure + Acting SAO
<b>January 2026</b>	QIA IQ Staff	Project History + Overview	5x attendees (3x QIA, 2x NNC); Project History + Overview Provided; questions around impacts + benefits and consultations + engagement
<b>January 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq HTO Board	Letter Responding to Outreach Received from HTO Board in early January re: Project Concerns	Letter received January 9 from Panniqtuuq HTO outlining concerns re: impacts of Project; NNC provided a response letter outlining the importance of the concerns, and the need to collect data in 2026 in order to address the concerns raised
<b>January 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Council	Project Update + Clarification around Nation Building Projects List + Open Floor Listening on Concerns + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak and Nuuk	12+ attendees; feedback received on dissatisfaction around Panniqtuumiut not being included in the Project's site selection process; concerns expressed about potential environmental, cultural, and economic impacts; concern around the lack of benefits articulation. Desire for more information.
<b>January 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq HTO	Project Update + Clarification around Nation Building Projects List + Open Floor Listening on Concerns + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak	10+ attendees; feedback received on dissatisfaction with the site selected for the Project. Concerns around Panniqtuumiut experiencing the majority of impacts while Iqalungmiut receiving the majority of benefits. Desire for more information.
<b>January 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Public	Project Update + Clarification around Nation Building Projects List + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak	60+ attendees; strong expression of repeated concerns noted in above entries, and dissatisfaction with engagement process to date. Several Panniqtuumiut stating this is the first time for a meeting on this Project, and the HTO's involvement in co-development of data

			collection program planning being misconstrued / misrepresented. An informal vote by show of hands amongst public participants, struck by a member of the audience, that supported the cessation of all study plans relating to the Project.
<b>January 2026</b>	Iqaluit Key Stakeholders (Amaruq HTA, QIA, NTI, GN, QEC, City of Iqaluit) invited	Project Update + Clarification around Nation Building Projects List + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak	20+ attendees; some concerns around potential impacts to wildlife and hunters, and the skidoo trail from Iqaluit to Panniqtuuq being negatively impacted by the construction of the site access road. Questions around what will happen to the study plans if Panniqtuumiut are not in support.
<b>January 2026</b>	Iqaluit Public	Project Update + Clarification around Nation Building Projects List + Inuit Knowledge Sharing on Hydro from Inukjuak	50+ attendees; questions about how the Project infrastructure would operate, its size/capacity, and how NNC will respond to concerns from Panniqtuumiut. Concerns around impacts to spiritual aspects of the Kuugaaluk site. Interest noted on hearing the results of the 2025 study plans, which are to be shared in March, 2026.
<b>February 2026</b>	GN Minister of QEC	Project Overview + Clarification on Project Status	4 attendees (2x GN, 2x NNC); Project History + Overview Provided; questions around impacts, benefits sharing, consultation + engagement, and opportunities for collaboration
<b>February 2026</b>	GN Minister of Environment / Energy	Project Overview + Clarification on Project Status	4 attendees (2x GN, 2x NNC); Project History + Overview Provided; questions around impacts + benefits and consultation + engagement
<b>February 2026</b>	QIA IIBA Negotiator	Project History + Clarification on Project Status	3 attendees (2x NNC, 1x QIA); Project History + Overview Provided; discussion on IIBA and update on negotiating process
<b>February 2026</b>	GN Premier	Overview of Project Status	Project Status Update + Clarification of Plans for Phase 3
<b>March 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Acting Mayor	Open Floor Listening of Concerns from Panniqtuumiut	6 attendees (3x QIA, 2x NNC, Panniqtuuq Acting Mayor); receipt of letter from Hamlet of Pangnirtung outlining key areas of concern and requests/recommendations.

March 2026	Panniqtuuq Acting Mayor	Sharing of Feasibility + Field Reports	Meeting Follow-up of Sharing Phases 1 + 2 Feasibility Study Reports and 2025 Field Season Reports
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**Photos from Abovementioned Historic Major Consultation Activities**



**Planned Major Consultation Activities (2026)**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Audience</b>	<b>Discussion Topic</b>
<b>March 2026</b>	Iqaluit Key Stakeholders	Results Sharing from Year 1 Field Season
<b>March, 2026</b>	Iqaluit Public	Results Sharing from Year 1 Field Season
<b>April 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Coucil	Results Sharing from Year 1 Field Season
<b>April 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq HTO	Results Sharing from Year 1 Field Season
<b>April 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Contractors Engagement	EOI for Contractors Interested in Field Season Contracts
<b>May 2026</b>	Iqaluit Rightsholders	Sharing 2026 Field Season Plan
<b>May 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Rightsholders	Sharing 2026 Field Season Plan
<b>June 2026</b>	Iqaluit Public	Hiring for Field Season
<b>June 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Public	Hiring for Field Season
<b>November 2026</b>	Iqaluit Key Stakeholders	Sharing Results of 2026 Field Season
<b>November 2026</b>	Iqaluit Public	Sharing Results of 2026 Field Season
<b>November 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Hamlet Council	Sharing Results of 2026 Field Season
<b>November 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq HTO	Sharing Results of 2026 Field Season
<b>November 2026</b>	Panniqtuuq Public	Sharing Results of 2026 Field Season

