



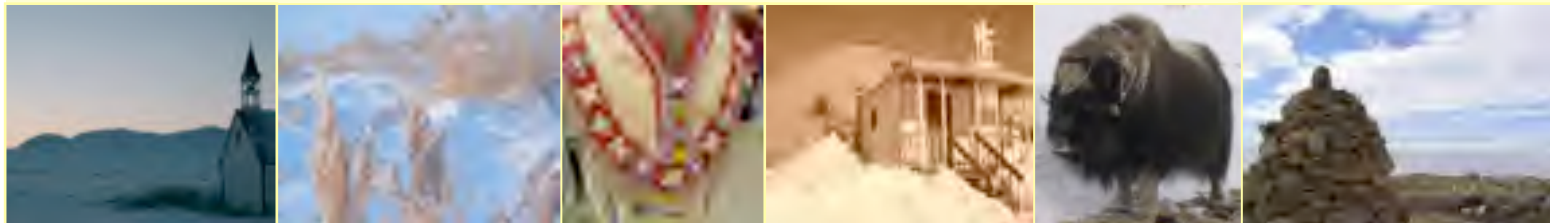
# Nunavut Impact Review Board

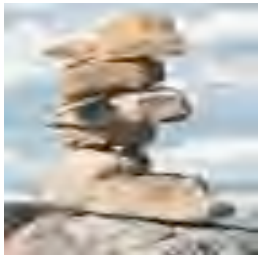


**Nunavut  
Mining  
Symposium**

**Iqaluit**

**April 15, 2010**





# Nunavut Mining Symposium

## Promoting Effective Public Participation in Impact Assessment

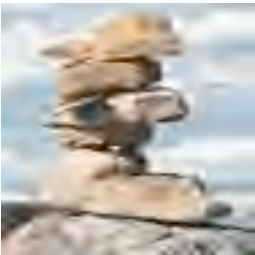
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# Outline of Presentation

- NIRB's Responsibilities and Primary Objectives
- Value of public participation in EA
- NIRB's public participation objectives
- Public participation facilitated by NIRB
  - Screenings and Reviews
- Challenges and Opportunities





# NIRB Responsibilities

- To screen and review project proposals (through impact assessment) for ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts
- To determine whether or not project proposals should proceed, and if so, under what terms and conditions
- To monitor projects that have been approved to proceed.



# Primary Objectives

*‘In carrying out its functions, the primary objectives of NIRB shall be at all times to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, and to protect the ecosystemic integrity of the Nunavut Settlement Area. NIRB shall take into account the well-being of residents of Canada outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.’*

NLCA 12.2.5

# Why is public participation so important?

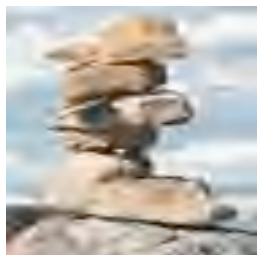
- Public participation is a cornerstone of environmental assessment in Canada.
- Participation of the public is what helps to make EA an effective planning tool
  - Provides EA processes with diversity of expertise, critical thought, credibility, resilience, and a more comprehensive understanding of the range of social and environmental concerns.
- Enables the views of everyone to be heard and influence the outcomes of the environmental decision-making process.
- Results in more balanced decisions which reflect the values and priorities of the public.
  - Primary objectives of NLCA

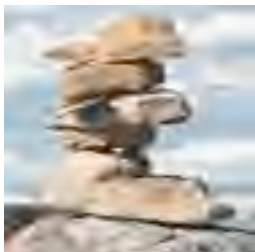


# NIRB's Objectives

## “Effective” Public Participation

- Facilitate a process which is accessible to Nunavummiut and residents of Canada
- Encourage proponents to consult and engage with community members
- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation by the public at all levels of the process
- Accurately evaluate public concern
- Make objective, balanced decisions

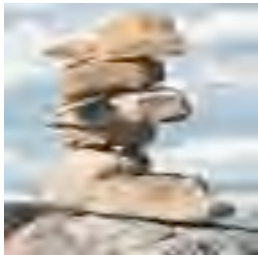




# NIRB's Objectives

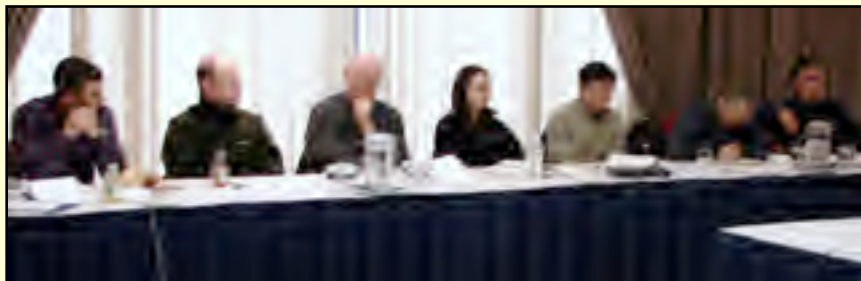
- Facilitate a process which is accessible to Nunavummiut and residents of Canada
  - Public commenting periods
  - Adequate public notice
  - Community visits
  - Translated materials
  - Toll free phone number
  - Online public registry



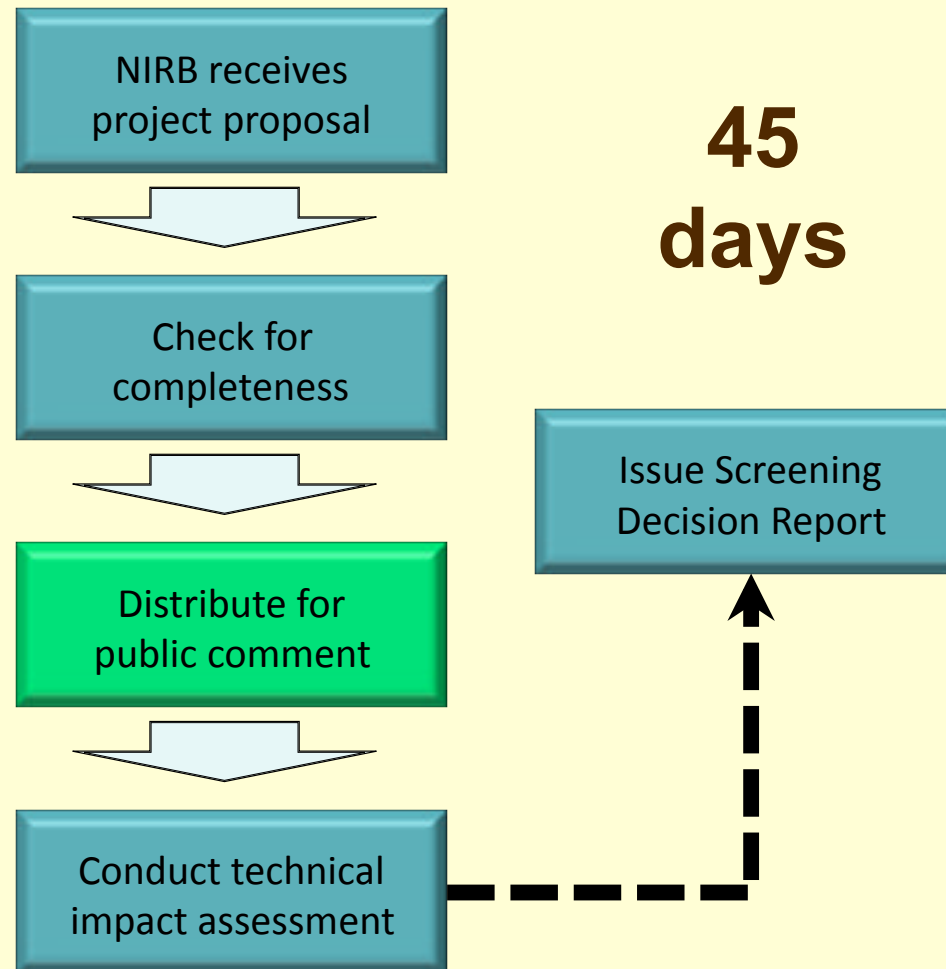


# NIRB's Objectives

- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation by the public at all levels of the process
  - Screenings
  - Reviews
  - Monitoring

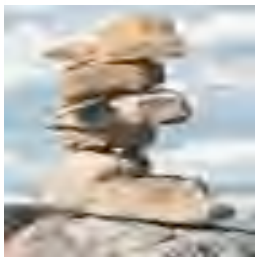


# NIRB Screenings

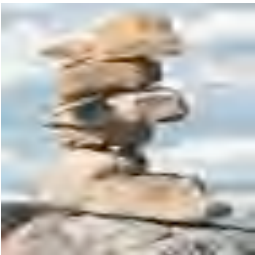
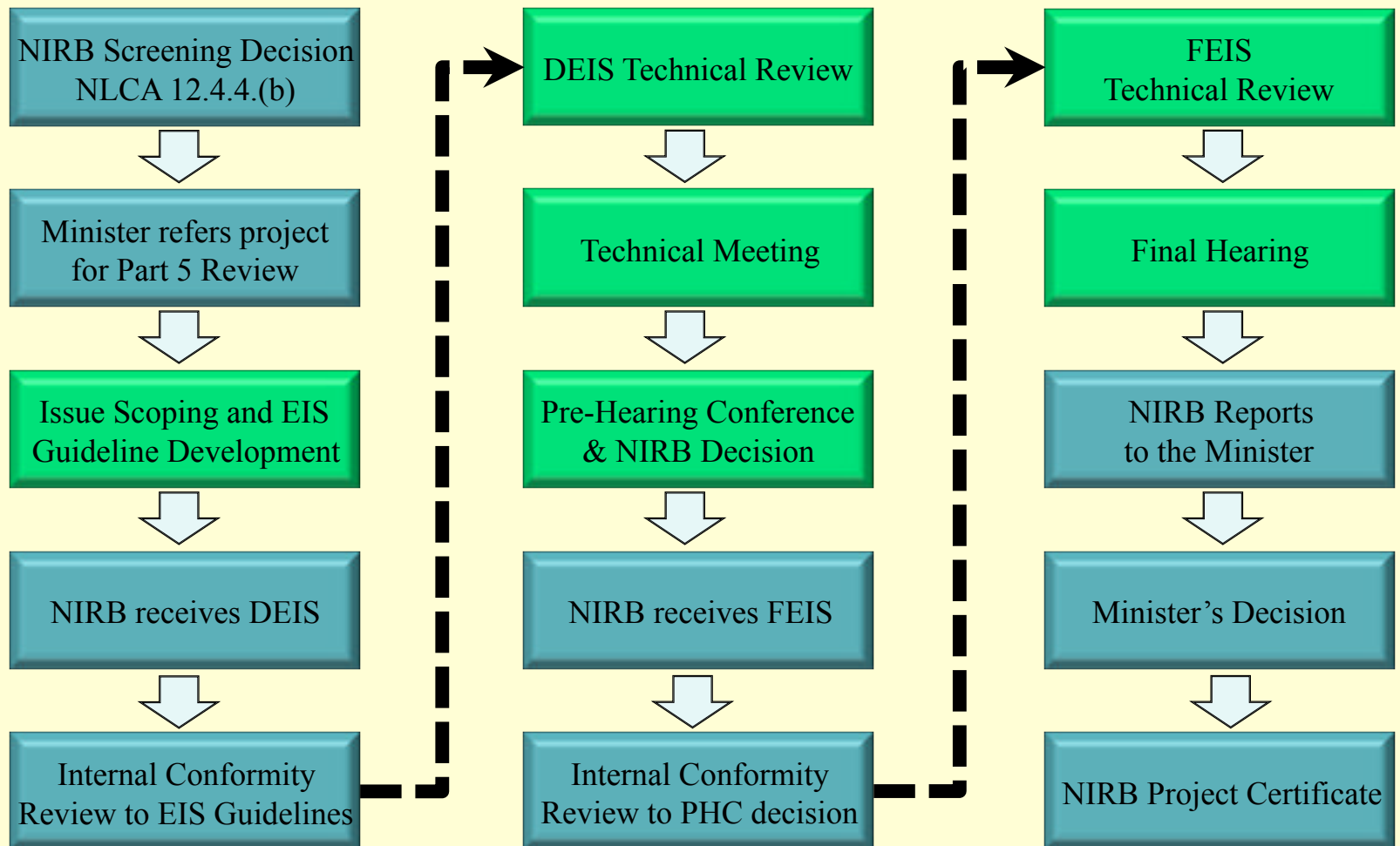


# NIRB Screenings

- During the Part 4 screening process, the Proponent is required to provide information regarding its consultation efforts with potentially-affected communities
- These requirements are described on the NIRB Part 1 Form and/or Project-specific information requirement (PSIR)
- NIRB has developed *Guide 6b: A Proponent's Guide to Conducting Public Consultation for the NIRB Environmental Assessment Process*



# NIRB Reviews



# NIRB Reviews

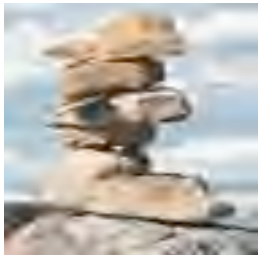
- The NIRB review process involves public hearings, with which the NIRB has an obligation to:  
*‘Take all necessary steps, by way of notice, dissemination of information, and scheduling and location of hearings to provide and promote public awareness of and participation at hearings.’*

NLCA 12.2.27



# NIRB Reviews

- Each NIRB review involves developing a public participation program whose focus is to encourage the public to participate in the review process
- Public participation programs may consist of:
  - Dissemination of information
  - Establishment of Participant Funding programs
  - Information sessions in potentially-affected communities
  - Arrangements for community members to attend a community roundtable and public hearings

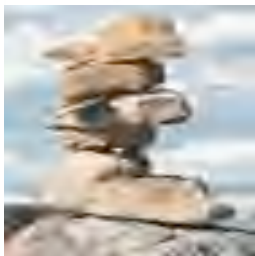


# NIRB Reviews

- During the NIRB review process a Proponent is required to, at a minimum, meet the following requirements:

*‘Pre-project consultations with locally affected persons must meet or exceed usual consultation practices in Canada. When at all possible, information about the project must be distributed and comments collected with a view to resolving any differences...All comments from the public must be summarized, documented, and presented in the EIS.’*

*NIRB’s 10 Minimum EIS Requirements*



# Challenges and Opportunities

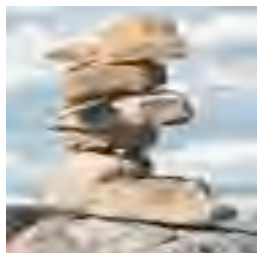
- Geographical and technological constraints
- Short (45 day) timeline for NIRB Screenings
- High volume of applications to consider
- There is concern that communities are being 'over-consulted' by proponents and regulators
- High turnover and limited capacity in community organizations
- Difficult to communicate very technical issues





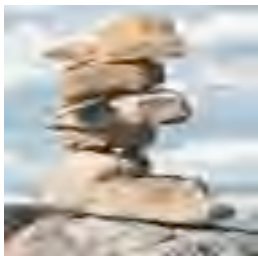
# Challenges and Opportunities

- Ongoing initiatives to improve public participation include:
  - Revision of NIRB Guides 1 - 8, NIRB Forms and Comment Forms
  - Creation of a Manager of Communications position
  - Re-launch of NIRB's website
  - Education of the public on technical issues
  - Coordination with other agencies

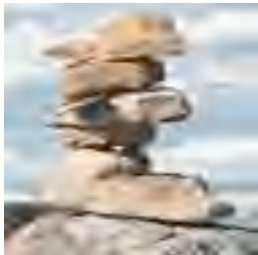


# Summary

NIRB remains committed to promoting effective public participation to ensure the continued delivery of high quality environmental impact assessment



# Questions?



# Thank you!