

May 6, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

The Igloodik Working Group, comprised of representatives from the Municipality of Igloodik and the Igloodik Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) (currently open), as well as Elders, youth, and other community members, would like to provide context and clarity regarding recent submissions made to the Federal Government, and public statements.

We want to begin by acknowledging and appreciating the critical efforts of all individuals and organizations—including the HTO and Municipality—who have actively engaged in these discussions. We recognize the importance of strong voices and advocacy in processes that directly impact our community.

The Igloodik Working Group was formally created in 2017 as a joint initiative between the Hamlet and the HTO to provide a coordinated, inclusive voice in the review of the Mary River Project. Since its inception, the group has prioritized broad community representation by including Elders, youth, and a cross-section of residents with diverse perspectives. The intention was—and continues to be—to ensure that the community's voice is not only heard but understood in full context.

While we recognize that various submissions have been made on behalf of Igloodik, we are concerned that some of the messaging may not fully reflect the range of views present in our community. It is important to us that the position presented publicly and to decision-makers reflects the true collective voice of Igloodik, and not just the input of a few individuals or external advisors. This is not a criticism of any particular submission, but rather a reaffirmation of the principle that decisions of this magnitude require deep, open, and community-led dialogue.

To that end, the Working Group is proposing to undertake a renewed consultation process. This will include public meetings, open houses, and radio forums to gather perspectives from across our community. We believe that genuine consultation is essential and that our people should have ample opportunity to speak, ask questions, and shape the message moving forward.

The Municipality of Igloodik has informed us that our budget is still active, and we will be utilizing it, as we recognize the scope and impact of the Baffinland project on our community.

Throughout this process, there is a deep concern and respect for the environment, wildlife, and way of life—and rightfully so. However, there is also significant support for this project, provided it is done the right way, with the right approach, and with proper thresholds identified to ensure adequate impact management. We believe this has been done by the proponent, but much of this work is buried through the NIRB portal, which is extremely difficult to navigate.

We also want to clarify that the Working Group does not hold any decision-making power, and it never has. The purpose of the Working Group is to gather information, review it with its members, and present that information to the decision-makers at both the Hamlet and the HTO.

This ensures that they can make informed decisions on behalf of the community. Informed decision-making is key. Too often, decisions are made without access to all the necessary information. On a project of this scale, it is critical that the project be thoroughly reviewed, and that the community be properly consulted before any final decision is made. This will ensure that elected officials are making informed decisions on behalf of the people they represent.

Sincerely,

The Igloodik Working Group