



August 21, 2025

President Jeremy Tunraluk  
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
P.O. BOX 638  
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0  
[president@tunngavik.com](mailto:president@tunngavik.com)

VIA EMAIL

Dear President Jeremy Tunraluk:

**Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Imperial Oil Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project – (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)**

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On June 19, 2025, Minister Jay Macdonald initiated a joint Aboriginal<sup>1</sup> consultation process in conjunction with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the proposed **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was referred to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) for Environmental Assessment (EA) on April 23, 2025. In the letter (enclosed), Minister Jay Macdonald delegated to me the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the EA of the proposed Project and the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada.

As the proposed Project may have the potential to adversely impact the established Treaty rights of the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the purpose of this letter is to:

1. Notify you of, and invite you to participate in, the ongoing steps of the EA process and any related engagement efforts of the developer;
2. Initiate Aboriginal consultation with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on the future decision that will be made by the GNWT responsible ministers on the EA of the Project. The decision, made at the end of the EA, will be in response to the Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, as required under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA);
3. Advise you that the GNWT is relying, to the extent possible, on the Review Board's process to fulfill the GNWT's duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate; and

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<sup>1</sup> The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to demonstrating respect to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and recognizes the shift in preferred terminology from "Aboriginal" to Indigenous. The use of the term "Aboriginal Peoples" or "Aboriginal rights" is defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is used in this context, and throughout this document, as a reference to legally defined Aboriginal rights.

4. Request that you identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on this Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I would appreciate it if you could forward this information to me by September 21, 2025

## **Background on the Project**

Imperial Oil's application to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) and the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Norman Wells Operations was referred to EA. This referral includes the entire Norman Wells Operations (NWO), in Norman Wells, NT, for the next five to ten years (2024-2034), which is the expected remaining operating life of the field and allow for sufficient time for engagement and permitting a transition to closure of the facility.

On March 31, 2025, Imperial Oil formally requested that the Review Board conduct an EA for closure of its long-standing oilfield operation in the Sahtu Settlement Area under subsection 126 (3) of the MVMRA. On April 23, 2025, the Review Board issued a Notice of Environmental Assessment, formally initiating the EA process.

Information on the EA, including the Review Board's workplan and how to subscribe to public registry updates, is available on the Review Board's website at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project | Mackenzie Valley Review Board](#).

## **Our approach to consultation with Aboriginal Peoples**

Both the GNWT and Canada have a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights resulting from the decision by the territorial government and federal government responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA. The Government of Canada will also be sending you a letter regarding this EA. The GNWT works closely with Canada throughout the EA and decision processes and will coordinate the consultation processes where possible.

The Review Board's EA process is robust and inclusive of all potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. To this end, the GNWT will rely on the Review Board's EA process, to the extent possible, to assist in fulfilling our consultation and accommodation obligations for our decision related to the EA of the Project.

### **How to participate in the Environmental Assessment Process?**

As the GNWT relies on the Review Board's process, it is important that you share, through the Review Board's process, any potential adverse impacts that you identify to your established Treaty rights as a result of the Project. Your participation in this process is important to:

- Help the Review Board, as well as GNWT, Canada, and all other parties to the EA, understand how the Project could adversely affect your established Treaty rights; and
- Allow your concerns to be considered and potentially addressed by the Review Board.

When identifying an adverse impact on your established Treaty rights, we kindly ask you to clearly set out:

- a. The specific established Treaty rights that may potentially be adversely impacted,
- b. The specific potential adverse impact(s), including timing, geographic extent, and other relevant considerations; and
- c. How the potential adverse impacts could best be mitigated.

The Review Board strongly encourages developers to engage and collaborate with local communities and Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA process. The GNWT also encourages Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to participate in any engagement efforts by Imperial, as the developer is generally best placed to address concerns related to project design and implementation.

Any issues or feedback provided during the Review Board's EA process or received by the GNWT during the decision phase of the EA process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decision being made by the GNWT's responsible ministers.

### **Next Steps**

At the end of the Review Board's process, after the Review Board issues its Report of Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision, the GNWT will send you another letter. At that time, we will request to receive your views, in writing, about whether the Review Board's recommendation, including any mitigation measures and the developer's commitments, appropriately accommodates any potential adverse impact (s) from the Project on your established Treaty rights.

Your views will inform the responsible ministers' decision on the Review Board's recommendation. If you identify in your response that there remain potential adverse impacts on your established Treaty rights that have not been appropriately accommodated, the applicable responsible minister(s) within the GNWT will assess whether they believe the accommodation provided is appropriate.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me at [lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca](mailto:lorraine.seale@gov.nt.ca) or 867-767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Seale', written in a cursive style.

Lorraine Seale  
Director, Impact Assessment and Security  
Management  
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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June 19, 2025

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**BY EMAIL**

**Delegated Officials - Aboriginal Consultation by the Government of the Northwest Territories on the Environmental Assessment of the Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - (MVEIRB File EA2526-01)**

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The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is initiating a joint Aboriginal consultation process with the Government of Canada (Canada) on the environmental assessment of the **Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project, EA2526-01** (the Project), which was ordered by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) on April 23, 2025.

Information on this environmental assessment is available on the Review Board's public registry at: [Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project - EA2526-01 | Review Board](#).

Multiple GNWT ministers will be responsible ministers on the Review Board's recommendation as to whether the proposed Project should proceed or not. Therefore, the GNWT must fulfill its duty to consult with your Indigenous government or Indigenous organization for those aspects of the responsible ministers' decision within the GNWT's jurisdiction. This consultation and potential future accommodation will be in relation to those matters identified by your Indigenous government or Indigenous organization during the environmental assessment process which have the potential to cause adverse impacts on your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights.

The GNWT will work closely with the Government of Canada throughout the environmental assessment and decision processes and will coordinate Aboriginal consultation processes where possible.

**CONSULTATION PROCESS COORDINATION**

As the GNWT Minister of Environment and Climate Change, I am responsible for GNWT-wide consultation processes related to Environmental Assessments. I have delegated to Lorraine Seale, Director, Impact Assessment and Security Management, the responsibility for keeping Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations informed of the status, outcomes and consultation process associated with the Environmental Assessment of the proposed Norman Wells Operation Closure and Reclamation Project. I have also tasked Lorraine Seale with the responsibility for coordinating the GNWT's Aboriginal consultation process, including coordination with Canada. Lorraine Seale can be reached by email at [Lorraine.Seale@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Seale@gov.nt.ca) or by telephone at 867-767-9180, ext. 24020.

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At this time, I ask that you please identify your main contact person for Aboriginal consultation on the Project, if it is someone other than yourself, to ensure that all future consultation correspondence is with a representative properly mandated and authorized by your government or organization. We would appreciate it if you could forward this information to Lorraine Seale prior to **July 19, 2025**.

Shortly, the GNWT will send a letter with more details to continue this consultation on the Project. That letter will discuss:

- a) details of how the consultation will proceed using the Review Board's process;
- b) potential for federal funding for participation in this EA; and
- c) any other noteworthy matters in relation to the consultation process.

The Government of Canada will also be sending a notification letter to potentially impacted Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to initiate consultation for this environmental assessment and to outline its consultation approach. If you have questions or would like to discuss the Project, please contact Lorraine Seale, by email at [Lorraine Seale@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Lorraine.Seale@gov.nt.ca).

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jay Macdonald  
Minister  
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

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