



**Inuvialuit Water Board
Annual Report
April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026**

1.0 Overview

The mandate of the Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) is described in the *Waters Act* (s. 24) as being:

“To provide for the conservation, development and utilization of waters in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit for all Canadians in general and, in particular, for the residents of the portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) located in the Northwest Territories for which the Board is authorized to issue licences.”

While the IWB operates within the authority and direction of the *Waters Act* and Waters Regulations, its activities are also subject to the requirements of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* (IFA). The IWB may not issue a water licence unless the provisions of the IFA environmental impact screening and review processes have been fulfilled. IWB members consider the results of this assessment process when reviewing and deciding whether a water licence should be issued and, if so, the terms and conditions of the licence.

Once a water licence is issued, inspection and enforcement of the terms and conditions are the responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC).

2.0 IWB Board Membership and Operations

The IWB is composed of a Board, made up of five members, including the Chairperson and administrative staff to support the IWB’s mandated activities. The GNWT Minister of ECC appoints all board members. Two members are appointed on the nomination of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC), and one member is appointed on the nomination of the federal Minister. All members of the Board hold office for a term of three years. The Chairperson of the Board is appointed by the Minister upon recommendation by the Board members and also serves as the IWB Chief Executive Officer.

As of March 31, 2026, members of the IWB included:

Mr. Gerald Inglangasuk, Chairperson -- effective date August 18, 2025
Mr. Richard Binder, member
Mr. Herbert Felix, member
Mr. Brian Chambers, member
Mrs. Elizabeth Arey, member

During the year, the Board met five (5) times as follows:

Meeting #472	June 19, 2025	Teleconference
Meeting #473	July 23, 2025	Teleconference
Meeting #474	September 9 – 11, 2025	In Person
Meeting #475	November 13, 2025	Video Conference
Meeting #476	March 3, 2026	Video Conference

3.0 IWB Operations

Based in Inuvik, NT, the IWB administrative personnel are members of the GNWT Public Service. The staff members are:

- Mardy Semmler – Executive Director
- Bijaya Adhikari, PhD – Science and Regulatory Coordinator
- Delores Harley - IWB Office Administrator – leave of absence November 22, 2025
- Vacant – IWB Communications and Public Outreach Officer

The IWB operates a fiscal year that matches that of the GNWT – April 1 through March 31 of the following calendar year. Core funding is provided through a contribution agreement between the GNWT (ECC) and the IWB for IWB activities. In addition, in any particular year, the IWB may receive proposal-based financial support from various organizations, governments or government departments and / or agencies for specific projects or activities. During 2025 - 2026 the IWB received \$939,000 under the contribution agreement with ECC. In addition, in-kind contribution for office facilities with a value of \$85,800 is provided by GNWT Infrastructure (INF).

Financial details related to IWB activities during the past year are outlined in the IWB's 2025 - 2026 Audited Financial Statements. The IWB's external auditor for the fiscal year is Crowe MacKay LLP, chartered accountants, situated in Yellowknife, NT. The financial statements are with this report.

In support of its mandate, the IWB has approved standardized rules and procedures for the water licensing process. These include documentation to guide administrative licensing matters as well as specific rules to guide the conduct of water licence application reviews and assessments. This information is publicly available through the IWB website (www.inuvwb.ca).

4.0 IWB Water Licensing Activities 2025 – 2026

Water Licensing

The IWB issues Type A and Type B Water Licences. A determination of the type of licence to be issued is dependent upon the volume of water used and the types of waste disposed of during a licenced activity.

In general terms:

- **Type A Water Licences** – are issued for larger scale industrial and commercial developments such as the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway.
- **Type B Water Licences** – are issued for municipalities' water / waste services and smaller scale activities including most environmental remediation projects.

As of March 31, 2026, there were twelve (12) active water licences. The active licences are within the following categories:

- **Municipal: five (5)**
- **Industrial: two (2)**
- **Miscellaneous: five (5)**

Type A or B Water Licences Issuance

- **Type B Miscellaneous Water Licence N5L8-1848** issued on November 14, 2025 to Shell Canada Limited for the Soil Remediation Project at the former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite for a term of fifteen (15) years from November 14, 2025 to November 13, 2040.

Type A or B Water Licences Renewal

- **Type B Miscellaneous Water Licence N5L8-1841** renewal on June 20, 2025 to Imperial Oil Environmental and Property Solutions for the Tuk Base Remediation Project for four (4) years for Imperial Oil to complete the project from July 11, 2025 to September 30, 2029.
- **Type B Municipal Water Licence N7L3-1619** Hamlet of Paulatuk is in the renewal process. The licence renewal process was delayed due to incomplete documents provided to the IWB to continue the renewal review and comment process. Prior to the expiry of the licence, the IWB approved two (2) extensions to the Hamlet of Paulatuk Municipal Water Licence for 200+ days up to June 28, 2026 to allow the Hamlet to provide the municipal water and waste services in their community. The extended term of the licence allows for the continued use of the existing water treatment plant, water from New Water Lake and the use of the solid and sewage waste disposal facilities managed by the Hamlet.

The IWB visited the community of Paulatuk in September 2025 and toured the water treatment plant and the solid and sewage waste disposal facilities. IWB members and staff met with the Hamlet Mayor and councillors as well as Senior Operations Staff to discuss the water licence renewal process and issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community. IWB presented a power point presentation outlining the water licence terms and conditions for municipal operations and a detailed timeline as to the municipal water licence application renewal process.

Type A or B Water Licence Assignment, Cancellation or Amendment

- No Water Licenses were Assigned, Cancelled or Amended during this fiscal year.

Type A or B Water Licences Expiring During the Year

- No Water Licenses expired during this fiscal year.

Licence Management Activities

In addition to processing water licence applications, the IWB reviews and approves management plans associated with water licences and reviewing annual reports for completeness from licence holders. The IWB also receives water licence inspection reports for review completed by the ECC Water Resources Officer and for placement of the inspection reports to the Public Register. During the year, the following activities related to this responsibility occurred.

Management Plan Approvals

- N7L3-1619 – Hamlet of Paulatuk – Municipal Water Licence Renewal
 - Spill Contingency Plan (Updated)
 - Solid Waste Disposal Facility Operations and Maintenance Plan (Updated)
 - Sewage Waste Disposal Operations and Maintenance Plan (Updated)
 - Hazardous Waste Management Plan (Updated).
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada – Camp Farewell Remediation Project
 - Emergency Response Plan
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil Property and Environmental Solutions – Tuk Base Remediation Project
 - Spill Contingency Plan
 - Waste Management Plan including Incineration Management Plan
 - Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
 - Remedial Action Plan
 - Permafrost Monitoring Plan
 - Dock Repair and Removal Monitoring Plan
 - Reclamation, Closure and Monitoring Plan
 - Wildlife Encounter Management Plan
 - Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan
- N5L8-1846 – Shell Canada – West Channel Staging Area Soil Remediation Project
 - Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
 - Remedial Action Plan – Addendum
- N5L8-1848 – Shell Canada – Soil Remediation Project Unipkat I-22 Wellsite
 - Remediation Action Plan
 - Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan
 - Waste Management Plan
 - Spill Contingency Plan

- Emergency Response Plan
- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- Permafrost Protection Plan
- Reclamation, Closure and Monitoring Plan
- Analyst Approved Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan

Annual Reports Reviewed and Acknowledged

- N7L3-0570 – Hamlet of Aklavik – 2025 Annual Report
- N7L3-1525 – Hamlet of Ulukhaktok – 2024 Annual Report
- N7L1-1834 – Shell Canada, Camp Farewell – 2025 Annual Report
- N7L1-1836 – Imperial Oil Resources, Tununuk Point / BAR-C 2025 Annual Report
- N5L8-1841 – Imperial Oil – Tuk Base Remediation Project 2025 Annual Report
- N5L8-1846 – Shell Canada – West Channel Remediation Project – 2024 Annual Report
- N3L8-1847 – GNWT Department of Finance – Inuvik to Tuk Fiber Optic Line Installation Project – 2024 Annual Report
- N5L8-1848 – Shell Canada – Soil Remediation Project – former Unipkat I-22 Wellsite – 2025 Annual Report

Inspection Reports Received

- No ECC Inspection Reports were received during the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year.

5.0 Other IWB Activities

During this fiscal year, the IWB engaged in supplementary activities in support of its mandate. These included:

Involvement in Meetings and Conferences

IWB Board members and staff attended meetings and conferences related to the IWB mandate. Meetings and conferences IWB participated in included:

- NWT Water Strategy Implementation Workshop – October 2025
- Pan Territorial Board Forum – October 2025
- CIRNAC RECLAIM 8.0 Information Workshop – October 2025
- Shell and WSP – West Channel Remediation Project
- Imperial Oil – Tuk Base and Bar C and Mackenzie Delta Sump Remediation Projects
- Arctic Energy and Resource Symposium – March 2026

Activities with other Regulatory Boards within the NWT

The IWB has continued to communicate and collaborate with other regulatory boards within the Mackenzie Valley and the ISR on areas of common interest related to water and waste management.

Other Administration and Board Activities

The IWB cancelled the annual Municipal Water and Waste Management Workshop during this fiscal year. IWB considered alternative approaches to provide adequate information that will assist Hamlet leaders and operations staff with understanding their municipal water licence roles and responsibilities and ensuring compliance. IWB will continue to engage with each Hamlet Council and operations staff annually and provide one on one support and / or information to their senior staff for water licencing and waste management requirements in advance of their municipal water licence renewal.

As required under the *Waters Act*, the IWB maintains a Public Register (documents related to all water licence applications, management plans and reports). The Public Register is situated in the IWB office in Inuvik. A copy of the Public Register is available on-line through the IWB website (www.inuvwb.ca). The IWB upgraded the website by including a search function to make searching for specific licences or documents easier for public and / or other regulatory agencies.

Throughout the year, in addition to fulfilling its core-mandated responsibilities, the IWB channelled considerable time and effort in communicating with and discussing issues of shared interest or concern with communities and other regional and territorial organizations holding contributing responsibilities in the overall management of the regional and territorial environment. This beneficial sharing of information and broad coordination of approach and effort will continue throughout 2026 - 2027.

6.0 Areas of Focus for 2026 / 2027

During the 2026 / 2027 year the IWB will focus on the following priorities:

- As per Goal 1 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue its efforts to monitor and improve the efficiency, effectiveness and timeliness of all licensing processes; will develop or update policies and procedures that reflect best practices and are generally consistent with other jurisdictions; and will engage in regulatory improvement processes and discussions related to water and waste management.
- As per Goal 2 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue to implement its Communications Strategy to ensure all parties are aware of the IWB's processes, decisions and actions and the responsibilities of applicants and licence holders – including, but not limited to, the development of information fact sheets, pamphlets and brochures for general distribution. The IWB engage with Municipal Governments to ensure Mayors and Hamlet Operations Staff are aware of their collective roles and responsibilities regarding municipal water licences.
- As per Goal 3 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will continue to work in partnership with government, other resource management boards and communities with the aim of collaboratively enhancing community awareness and capacity in effective water use and waste management.

- As per Goal 4 of the IWB Strategic Plan, the IWB will review staff duties and responsibilities to ensure the IWB is functioning efficiently and effectively.
- In advance of considering a renewal of the community of Ulukhaktok's municipal water licence (expiry November 2026), Board members and staff will tour the community's municipal water and waste management facilities and meet with the Mayor, Council members and operations staff to discuss issues related to the provision of water and waste services in their community. The IWB will also discuss the Hamlet's water licence terms and conditions in detail to give the community leadership and staff the opportunity to ask questions to provide clarification on any aspects of the licence.

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