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Qikiqtani Inuit Association

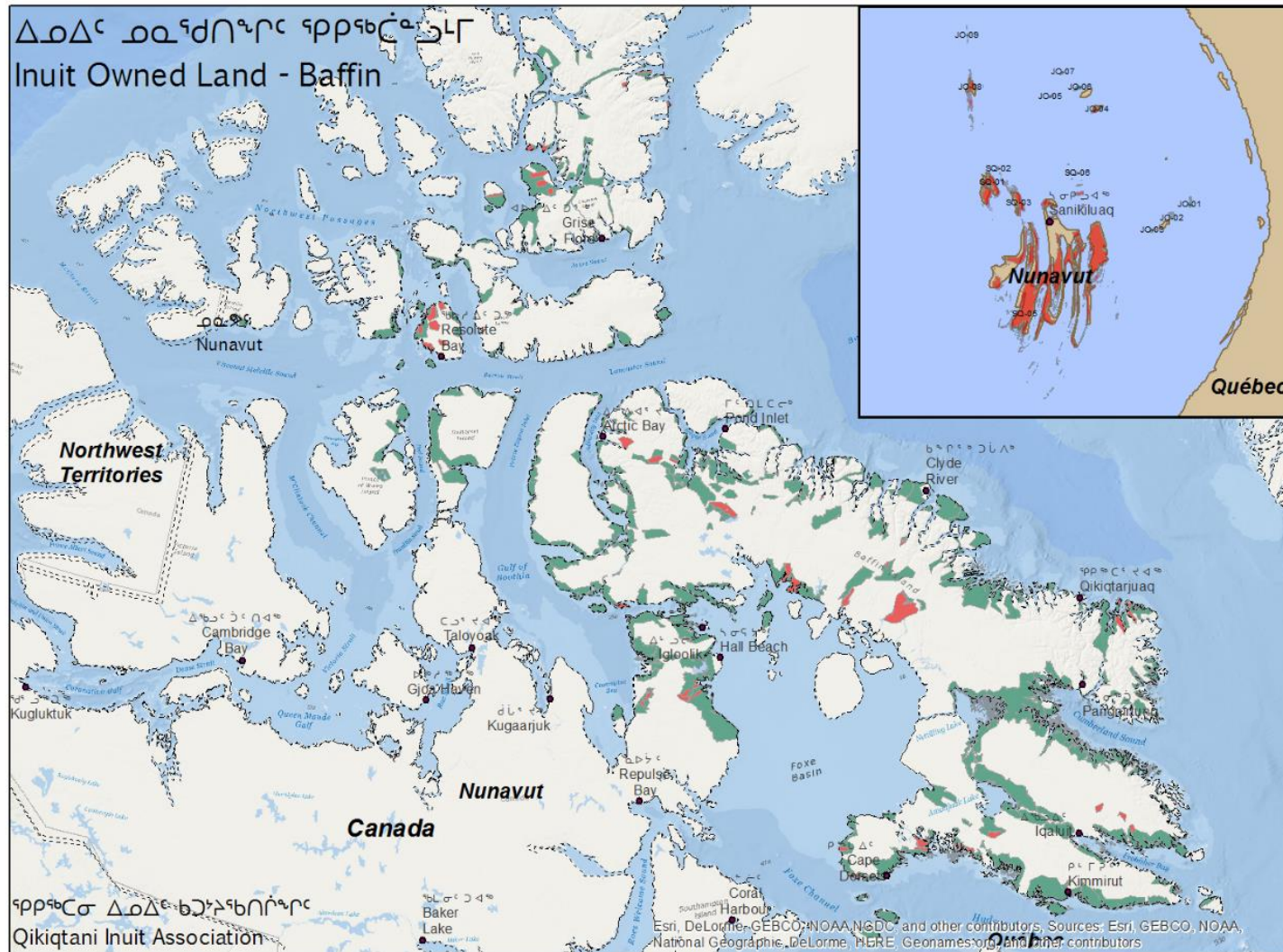
Building a Better Project Using QIA's Community Land and Resource Committees

Joel Fortier - April 5th, 2016

QIA's Mandate

- Under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement (NLCA), the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) is mandated with management of surface and subsurface rights in the Qikiqtani Region.
- The QIA Lands Department has the responsibility to ensure that Inuit rights with respect to the land, harvesting, and economic and societal opportunities are considered in all land use applications.
- QIA is one the largest private land owners in the world
 - ~156,370 square kilometers of Inuit Owned Land to manage

Map of QIA Communities and Inuit Owned Land



CLARCs – What are they?

- Community Land and Resource Committees or CLARCs were created to ensure that communities have an opportunity to be involved in land management and land use decisions regarding lands near their communities.
- The CLARC is made up of 5 community members respected for their knowledge of their surrounding areas:
 - land use by Inuit
 - wildlife that exists surrounding their community
 - General community needs and concerns
- Traditionally the CLARC is comprised of the CLARC Chair and representatives from various backgrounds in the community. Typically there is a representative from the HTO and a representative from the Hamlet council. The two other spots are reserved for members at large who represent Elders, Women, and/or youth.

CLARCs role within QIA

- CLARCs play a very important role in ensuring that local land knowledge is available and contributes to QIA land management decisions.
- CLARCs provide information, advice and recommendations regarding Inuit owned land (IOL) use applications to QIA's Lands Department.
- QIA will ensure that CLARC information regarding land use applications is given full consideration in all its land related decisions and positions
- As a result of the CLARC providing QIA with local information regarding the land use applications, QIA can then assess whether or not the requested land use application should go ahead or not and if so, under what conditions the project should be allowed to proceed.
- QIA holds approximately 30-50 CLARC meetings per year.

How can CLARCs benefit your project?

- CLARCs are QIA's main source of local knowledge of the environment including information on local land uses and important wildlife information
- Proponents can benefit from the vast amounts of Inuit Qaujimagatugangit (IQ) held by community members for project planning purposes
 - Ex: Sensitive areas, sensitive time periods, etc
- Early on engagement with the CLARC can help identify and discuss potential adverse impacts of the project on Inuit rights, traditional harvesting and Inuit land use
 - Reduce delays and issues during the regulatory process and project development
- As CLARCs are a link to community members, the Communities are made more aware of any potential environmental impacts and benefits stemming from a project

New class types and the requirement for CLARC meetings

- QIA has reclassified land use licences categories which will allow it to continue holding CLARC meetings for projects that may impact our region while also administering the review of low impact projects.
- Low impact projects will not require immediate review by a CLARC
 - No power driven machinery, small campsites, prospecting
- Higher impact projects will need to be reviewed by the relevant CLARC's
 - Power driven machinery, aerial surveys, flight based activities, construction, bulk sampling, storage of fuels, explosives, etc.

CLARC Repayment Policy

- QIA has a new policy that will allow it to recover honorarium paid to CLARC members during meetings held to discuss applications to access Inuit Owned Land or for participation in any community consultation sessions at the request of industry, government and/or researchers
- Typical cost is \$750 per CLARC meeting

How to set up a CLARC meeting

- Individuals or groups wishing to meet with a CLARC must first contact the Department of Lands and Resources for approval and scheduling
- CLARC committees can only meet at the request of the QIA Lands Department
- If a CLARC meeting is requested by another agency, it must first be approved by QIA Lands and Resources. We are reminding agencies not to contact the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) directly

Which community CLARC ?

- There are 13 CLARCs. One in each community in the Qikiqtani region
- Each community has specific Inuit Owned Land
- QIA lands will help identify which communities a proponent should meet based on the location of the proposed project, nearby Inuit Owned Land and the scale of the project



Making the best use of CLARC meetings

- Ideally proponents can opt to participate in the CLARC meeting in person to take feedback and to answer questions directly
- Submit an agenda to follow
- Provide clear questions you seek to answer
- Allow time for interpretation and to explain technical concepts
- Remember that the CLARC members are QIA's experts on land use in their region and they represent community members who are the most at risk of being affected by outside activity

