

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD POLICY AND PROCEDURES

POLICY: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund

APPROVED: _____

Purpose

The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund (IQRF) (through the NWMB) provides funding for Inuit and/or community-based organizations or individuals to lead and carry out wildlife related research in order to help establish an effective system of wildlife management in Nunavut. The IQRF provides an annual allocation, which is administered by the NWMB, to address wildlife management and research priorities as identified by the NWMB.

Research is necessary to ensure that wildlife resources are managed and harvested in a sustainable way so that Nunavummiut can continue the hunting and fishing that is so essential to their way of life. The NWMB has a lead role to play in this area and is committed to making wildlife research responsive to the needs and concerns of the people of Nunavut.

Nunavut Agreement Authority

The NWMB's authority under the *Nunavut Agreement* pertaining to research is provided in subsections 5.2.37 and 5.2.38.

Policy Statements

The NWMB adopts the following policy statements for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Research Fund. It shall be NWMB policy that the IQRF:

1. will focus on projects led and developed by Inuit and/or community-based organizations or individuals from Nunavut;
2. will focus on addressing NWMB and Regional Wildlife Management and Research Priorities;
3. will fund Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and traditional ecological knowledge research, and encourage the incorporation of both in related Nunavut wildlife management decisions;
4. will focus on research applicable to the NWMB's management functions;
5. will be administered in the most cost and time efficient manner; and
6. will promote and encourage the employment of Inuit and Inuit organizations in research.

Funding

Projects may be funded under the IQRF as single year projects (up to a maximum of \$30,000) and preliminary studies (up to a maximum of \$7,500). The IQRF annual allocation in a given year for preliminary projects shall not exceed 10% of the total amount of funding available.

The IQRF will be restricted to projects led and developed by eligible Inuit and/or community-based organizations or individuals, which include, but are not limited to, Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs), Regional Wildlife Organizations (RWOs), Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs), non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, and residents of Nunavut. To be eligible the research must be conducted within the Nunavut Territory and benefit Nunavut's wildlife management.

Administration

The Board will determine the amount of funding available for allocation each year as part of the budget review process. The Director of Finance and Administration is responsible for preparing all fund dispersal for the Board. The Director of Wildlife Management is responsible for the general administration of the fund as directed by the IQRF Funding Guide.

The NWMB will consider applications for funding quarterly (in March, June, September, and December), at regular Board meetings. Proposals may also be considered outside of these time frames during NWMB teleconferences, virtual meetings, and in-person meetings. NWMB staff will prepare and present a summary of each of the IQRF applications to the Board. NWMB staff will be prepared to respond to any questions from Board members.

The IQRF application process will require applicants to submit applications available from the NWMB's website or from the NWMB Office. Proposals must score a minimum of 50 points to be considered by the NWMB. The Director of Wildlife Management shall have the authority to reject IQRF applications that are not submitted in adequate detail, do not meet the funding guide criteria or minimum score, or where reporting requirements are not met. As with the research trust the IQRF projects shall be approved through a single motion.

Funding will be provided to the Inuit organizations, community-based organizations, or individuals by the NWMB once the applicant has demonstrated that funding conditions for the project have been met. If a project does not meet the required funding conditions, that project will be excluded from the contribution agreement. The contribution agreement will be negotiated for those projects having met the requirements, and any excluded project(s) must reapply for funding the following year.

The Board will review the IQRF policy and procedures once every three years.

Consultation and reporting requirements

The NWMB anticipates that most research will be done with the cooperation and active participation of local people. For IQRF projects that affect more than five communities, a letter of support from the affected Regional Wildlife Organization(s) is required. Plans for community reporting must be provided in the proposal. Copies of community reports must also be provided to the NWMB.

All proponents will be required to meet the NWMB reporting requirements as per the NWMB funding guide unless there are extenuating circumstances to be considered for future research funding. The Director of Wildlife Management will be responsible for ensuring that IQRF reporting requirements are fulfilled.

Proposal evaluation:

The evaluation process of applications for IQRF funding involves a two-fold review process which includes a scoring of the proposals by the NWMB's Wildlife Section and then a review by the members of the NWMB at its March, June, September, and December Board meetings. The NWMB's Wildlife Section evaluation will be based on a set scoring system conducted by at least two staff, including the IQ coordinator, in which consensus must be reached on the score for all project proposal evaluations.

The IQRF evaluation process will use five main criteria when scoring proposals to determine a total score out of 100, which are:

1. Research Priority (20 points)
2. Quality of Research (25 points)
3. Applicant Priority (20 points)
4. Training and Employment (20 points)
5. Consultation and Reporting (15 points)

Notification of funding decisions

All individual applicants and organizations will be advised through written notification of the NWMB's funding decisions. Projects that have been approved for funding will also be notified of the funding conditions that are required to be met.

Once the funding conditions have been met the NWMB will contact the individual or representatives of the organization and arrange for the contribution agreements to be signed and funding disbursed.

Unused Funds

All unused funds will be returned to the NWMB. The IQRF does not allow the carry-over of funds from one year to the next.