

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT

KIVALLIQ HYDRO-FIBRE LINK

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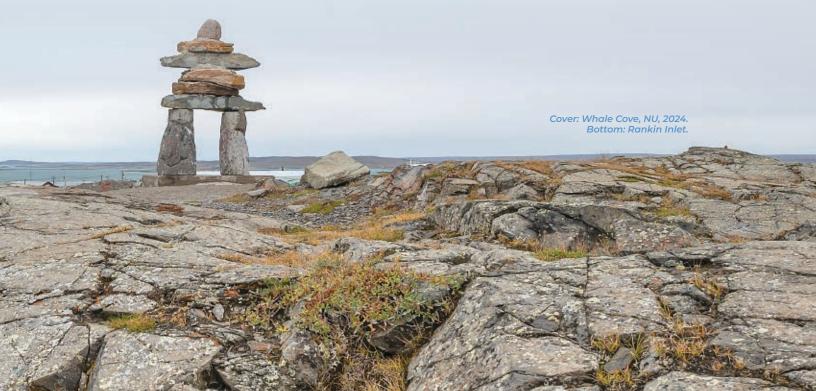
"Working together, we will remain close to the community and focused on the brighter, stronger future we're building..."

David KakuktinniqPresident, Nukik Corporation



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of Nukik Corporation's Board of Directors, I am pleased to share our Annual Summary Report, which outlines our continued progress in the planning and development of the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link (KHFL).

This report shows how we're leading the transition to a modern and reliable energy future for the Kivalliq region. It is an essential tool in our commitment to keeping communities, governments and the broader public informed as we go.

Families and businesses in Nunavut currently rely on expensive imported diesel for our heating, transportation and electricity needs. Nukik is working to build a more cost-effective, reliable energy system for future generations. As the first infrastructure connection between Nunavut and southern Canada, the KHFL will carry electricity and high-speed fibre-optic internet. This means better connectivity for families and friends, tools that drive a modern economy, and support for arctic sovereignty and energy security. You can't have a strong sovereign north without strong communities.

We continue to advance essential fieldwork and scientific studies, partnering with local communities, experts and knowledge-keepers. 2024 saw us build new partnerships, forge stronger relationships, and advance critical fieldwork - work that positions us to ramp up our operations in the year ahead.

The Board of Directors and I wish to thank all Nukik employees and contractors for their dedication to our future. We would like to congratulate the newly elected President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., Jeremy Tunraluk, and look forward to our work together. We also welcome Jason Tologanak to Nukik's Board of Directors. Finally, we mourn the passing of our friend and colleague Solomon Nakoolak, who served as a Board Director and was a champion of our nation-building work.

Working together, we will remain close to the community and focused on the brighter, stronger future we're building for all Kivallirmiut.



David Kakuktinniq President, Nukik Corporation

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Nukik Corporation is pleased to share important progress on our work to develop the KHFL. Amid rising diesel energy costs in the north and ongoing geopolitical challenges in the Arctic, we have strengthened our relationship with government partners who are seeing how the KHFL can contribute to Canada's economy and Arctic sovereignty efforts and deliver benefits to the communities we serve.

The Governments of Nunavut and Canada continue to express support for the KHFL and the role it would play, not only in the wellbeing of communities in the region, but also in future Arctic sovereignty and security needs through the energy and telecommunications solutions it promises. A dedicated new working group with the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut, Government of Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc, and the Kivalliq Inuit Association is helping to make sure we continue to advance coordinated discussions on the KHFL with key government partners through an open and transparent forum for information sharing.

The deepening of our relationship with the Province of Manitoba has also led to the inclusion of our work in Manitoba's Affordable Energy Plan. Manitoba's Plan commits to work with the Inuit Government of the Kivallig region to strengthen Manitoba's energy grid while advancing economic reconciliation. This recognition is a validation of our efforts and the strategic importance of our project, and we look forward to advancing this work with the Province of Manitoba in the year ahead.

We were also pleased to announce the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Qulliq Energy Corporation. This partnership will enable us to advance our work together on developing a full energy plan for the Kivalliq region. This collaboration is a step forward in our mission to enhance energy security and sustainability for Kivalliq communities.

Nukik completed its most ambitious technical data collection and fieldwork season to date. This information is used to inform the design of the project and mitigate areas of concerns of community members. This information will also be shared with the Government of Nunavut and Kivallig Inuit Association to better inform their own projects within the region.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of creating a sustainable and prosperous future for the Kivalliq region. Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our team, the support of our partners, and the trust of communities. Together, we can grow our economy, create more good jobs and build a brighter tomorrow for the Kivallig and the Canadian Arctic.

Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin Chief Executive Officer

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4974, JC4407440 J244P1JU47C 77414P8P $\mathsf{DPYQPUPP}$ 7ን-ገር⊲፥ሀኒሀውሪ፥ጋ፥ ለርሲቴሀኒ፥ወሲትናሀቃሪ፣ ለኖሩር⊲ሀኒሀውነገ፥ $\Lambda \Gamma = \Lambda^{\dagger} \Gamma \Lambda^{\dagger}$ $\dot{\mathsf{D}}^\mathsf{L}$ יבייט ארייחייחס איטרי פירירי שערשיי.

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DC97





Nukik recognizes that the KHFL team is working within the Kivalliq region of Nunavut, including on Inuit Owned Lands as per the Nunavut Agreement. As an Inuit corporation, Nukik acknowledges that the team is also working within Treaty 5 Territory, which is home to the Denesuline. Ininiwak, and Anisininew nations, as well as the Red River Métis. Nukik is committed to respecting the Treaties associated with these territories. acknowledging past harms, and advancing our work in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation, collaboration, and mutual respect.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the individuals and organizations whose support has been essential in completing our activities in 2024. Special thanks to the Community Researchers and Field Assistants: Ami Tootoo, Danica Taylor, Donna Adams, Harry Kuksuk, Joe Ugayuittug, John Batstone, Larry Ittinuar Jr., Leo Aktiasiak, Lisa Attungala, Neco Towtongie, Rory Suwaksiork, Stanley Spence, and Jimmy Pingushat.

Our thanks also go to the following companies and organizations for their vital contributions in logistics, transportation, and accommodations: Aura BLCS Hotel, Baker Lake Contracting & Supplies, Baker Lake Lodge, Calm Air Cargo, Katimavik Inns North, Katimavik Suites, Kettle Camp, Nanuk Lodge, Nunamiut Lodge, Peter's Expediting, Seaport Hotel, Sakku Properties, Sarliag Holdings, and Siniktarvik Inns North.

We thank Prairie Helicopters for their aerial support. which enabled the team to cover large and remote areas efficiently during the brief field season. Special mention goes to pilot Kelly Owlijoot of Arviat.

We are grateful for the financial support received from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency, Northern Affairs' Northern REACHE program, the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Kivallig Inuit Association, and Sakku Investments Corporation. Their funding has been crucial for our preliminary feasibility and baseline studies, which will inform the KHFL's route and configuration, and their continued support is vital for advancing the project.

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49 $^{\circ}$ $^{$ 62^{7} ት 60^{6} ለአለላ 6^{9} ጋσ 8 $\Delta64^{9}$ CC 9 LC $\Delta\sigma$ CD 6 C 1 C, Δ %ቦነናታካጋርሲσነጋና, Δ ነLン ለσኮርነል%ውና: Aura BLCS ለσኮርነልኑ, ישליס שלירי שישלי אינו איטחכיאי, ישליס שלירי לדיכיאי, ፟፟፟b¹୮◁⁵ďና ለናፈበሮሲጕ፨ቦና, bበLኖልኑ d◁<ჼďና ለσჼCናልჼ, bበLኖልჼ ۲۵۰۵٬۵۱۶ معدطن^{۱۱}۶ مع^{۱۱} ۲۵۰۵٬۵۱۶ معداک^{۱۱}۲۵٬۵۱۶ معداک^{۱۱}۲۵٬۵۱۶ $\dot{\Lambda}$ CD' Δ '5" Δ 6'4', $\dot{\Lambda}$ '> Δ ' Λ '5"C Λ ', Λ '6'4', Λ '7", Λ 'L Δ dd<ነdና ለውነርነልነ.

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Rory Suwaksiork & Danica Taylor - Trail Camera.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bernadette Dean, whose role as an Inuktitut-English interpreter and cultural liaison has significantly enhanced communication and ensured our activities are respectful and inclusive. We also thank Hilary Makpah for her English-Inuktitut translation work, ensuring accurate exchanges with community members.

We acknowledge the support of community administrators: Bryan Hart, Brian Fleming, Darren Flynn, David Hussey, Paul Bosetti and Sheldon Dorey. Additional gratitude is extended to the Hunter and Trappers Organizations Managers: Amy Kaludiak, Angel Aksawnee. Donna Adams, Nicole Issakiark, and Venissa Mimialk, as well as the radio operators in Arviat, Rankin Inlet, and Baker Lake, whose support has been invaluable.

Finally, Nukik acknowledges the logistical support received from Tataskweyak Cree Nation: Hilda Mayhem, John Henry Wavey, and Mike Flett; and from Fox Lake Cree Nation; Arnold Henderson, Rhonda Beardy, Arlana Lockhart, John Spence, and Hilary Massan. Special thanks to Tataskweyak Cree Nation Knowledge Keeper, Jonathan Kitchekeesik, whose guidance has enriched our fieldwork efforts and approach.

The success of this work is the result of a collective effort, and we look forward to advancing further partnerships, benefits, and opportunities related to this important project.





Bernadette Dean - Mapping Session in Whale Cove.

ליירארי ישלי פריייכאי איפט חֹי, ארת שיי ביירושי ביירושי ביירושי $O^{\prime}PO^{\prime}C^{\prime}PO^{\prime}PO^{\prime}C^{\prime}PO^{\prime}C^{\prime}PO^{\prime}C^{\prime}PO$ እኮረቦሳ፣ነሳ፣ነሳ፣ነሳ፣ ጋላኦLነነነርኮበርሲσነጉ ላነב ארתפתא[©] $H\Delta$ CΛ L'< b< Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD, Δ C'D'Dσ'- Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD'Dσ'- Δ eD' Δ

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The KHFL is a critical national infrastructure project that would bring clean, renewable energy and high-speed connectivity to the Kivalliq region for the first time, unlocking opportunities for critical mineral and renewable energy development, economic diversification, and improved living conditions for Kivallirmiut. The project will help to bolster Arctic sovereignty and Canada's national security while supporting resilient and prosperous communities through a range of benefits to the region.

The KHFL is a 1,200 kilometres (km) long high-voltage electricity and fibre-optic transmission line. It will connect over 370 km of medium voltage 'feeder' lines to five communities in Nunavut: Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet, Chesterfield Inlet, and Baker Lake. The project would support upgrading transmission infrastructure to Churchill, Manitoba and building a Nunavut-Manitoba link that will further advance northern trade, infrastructure development and long-term integrated planning with the Port of Churchill

The project will link the region to the electricity and fibreoptic grids in Manitoba with the capacity to transmit 150 megawatts (MW) and a fibre-optic bandwidth of at least 1,200 gigabits per second (Gbps). This will be Nunavut's first connection to southern Canada, providing important power and internet access for the Kivalliq region for many years to come.

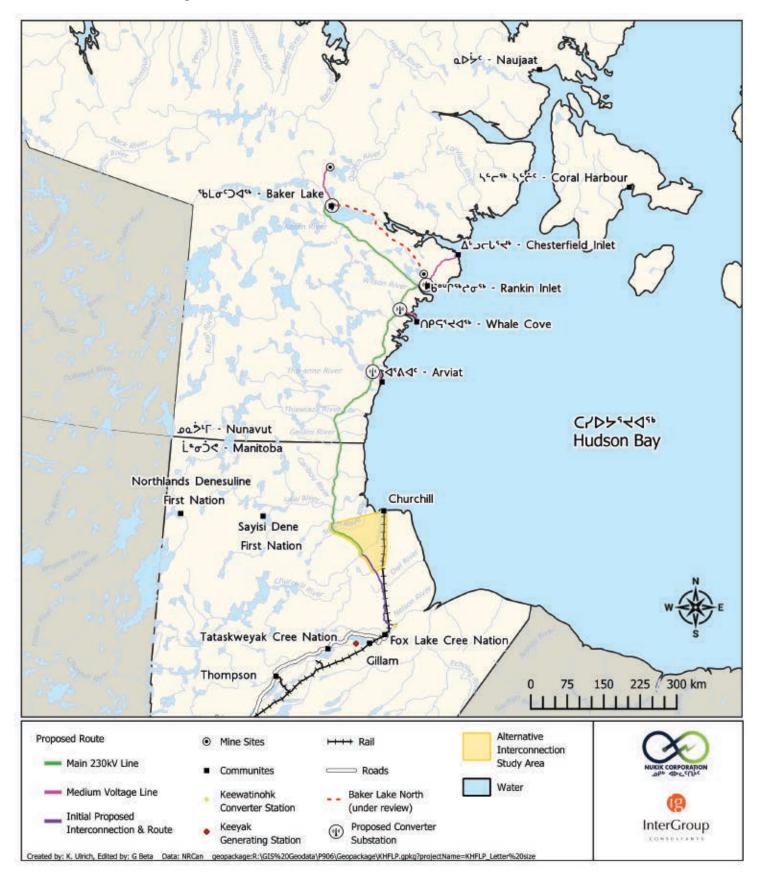
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PROPOSED KIVALLIQ HYDRO-FIBRE LINK ROUTE



All communities in Nunavut currently rely on diesel fuel for electricity and heating their homes. This fuel is transported by ship across the fragile ecosystem of Arctic waters, unloaded onto shore using long hoses, transported by trucks and stored in large tank farms for use by communities and industry. There is a risk of spills during this transportation, whether in the water, during unloading, or while moving it over land. Burning diesel fuel also releases greenhouse gases (GHGs) and air pollutants, which harm the health of people, wildlife, and the environment. In the Kivallig region, climate change is causing more rain and thunderstorms, along with ice forming later in the fall and melting earlier in the spring. These changes negatively impact wildlife that residents depend on for food and a good quality of life. The unpredictable weather also creates dangerous travel conditions on land and ice.

The vision of an all-weather road and transmission line between the Kivallig region and Manitoba began

even before Nunavut became its own territory. A defined 10km wide infrastructure corridor is included in the Kivalliq region's Keewatin Land Use Plan. A scoping study was completed in 2015, backed by the Hudson Bay Regional Roundtable, laying the foundation for this project. In 2018, leaders from the Kivalliq Inuit Association prioritized the advancement of a transmission line that would bring clean electricity and fibre-optic internet to the region. With funding from the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and the Northern REACHE program, the Kivallig Inuit

Association completed a feasibility study in 2020. This study looked at routing options and found that the KHFL was both technically and economically feasible.

Trail Camera, Arctic Fox.

Nukik Corporation was formed in 2021 as an Inuit-owned and Inuit-led organization to advance the KHFL. It is a joint venture between the Kivalliq Inuit Association and Sakku Investments Corporation. The name "Nukik" means "power" or "muscle" in Inuktitut. In early 2022, Nukik prepared an initial business case and advanced work with federal government officials to establish a partnership for the project. Nukik has a development partnership agreement with the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB), which offers advice and support. Additionally, Nukik is collaborating through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NextEra Energy, ATCO, and Valard Construction to bring their expertise and technical skills to the project's development and planning.

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Stronger Communities:

- Led by a 100% Inuit company focused on issues important to the north and its people.
- Create employment and business opportunities for Nunavummiut.
- Offer new training opportunities in energy and telecommunications.
- Improve healthcare and education with faster and more reliable internet.
- Stabilize electricity costs by avoiding the rising and unpredictable costs of diesel.

Economic Growth:

- Provide access to reliable clean energy and fibre-optic broadband, improving the competitiveness of Kivallig businesses.
- · Make other renewable energy projects more viable and allow for future electricity sales to the south through the transmission line.
- Unlock the mineral potential of the region, home to critical minerals and other precious metals.
- Create new business opportunities during construction and operation of the KHFL.

Building the North for a Stronger Canada:

- Strengthen Arctic sovereignty and national security.
- Support resilient and prosperous communities.
- Build vital national infrastructure and economic links between north and south.

Environmental Protection:

- Protect Arctic waterways and marine life by reducing over 100 million litres of diesel fuel shipments.
- Safeguard the land from spills during diesel and oil transportation.
- Reduce air pollution affecting land, water, and wildlife.
- Help the climate by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Transmission lines are a proven technology that have been successfully built in northern and Arctic regions like Greenland, Labrador, and Alaska. They are designed to accommodate community growth and provide steady, reliable energy without the pollution caused by burning diesel fuel when connected to renewable energy sources.

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE

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The project is divided into four main phases from 2018 to 2032, each focusing on different activities to ensure its successful completion.

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In this initial phase, Nukik focused on getting the project ready. This included:

- Project Scoping
- Early Feasibility
- Early Engagement
- Government Partnerships
- Selection of Development Partners

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DEVELOPMENT (4 YEARS)

During this phase, Nukik dives deeper into planning and preparation. Key activities include:

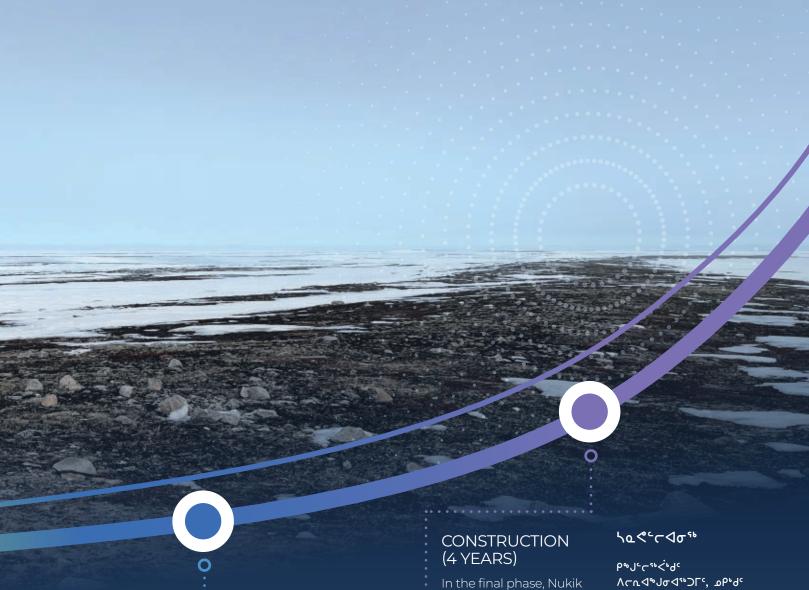
- Engagement
- Advance Engineering and Routing
- Advance Commercial Aspects
- Planning for Project Assessment and Licensing
- Financial Modeling

Λ c c d sb

NUKIK IS HERE ውየነትር ርኮ**ኖ**ትናጋና

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- Ρ΄σρρος σ΄ινιρρησικό



ENGINEERING & PROCUREMENT (2 YEARS)

This phase will focus on the technical and regulatory steps needed before construction begins. Activities will include:

- Continued Engagement
- Environmental Permitting
- Engineering Design
- Commercial Negotiations
- · Early Procurement

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will start building the project. This includes:

- Safety, Environmental, and Quality Management
- Construction Logistics and Camps
- Final Procurement
- Construction of Transmission and Fibre-Optic Lines, and Substations
- Project Commissioning
- Reclamation of Areas Impacted by Construction

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2024-2025

Significant progress and milestones were achieved over the last year from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025, including ongoing government and community engagement, and extensive technical and fieldwork. This includes several major developments that underscore the project's building momentum and broad support:

- Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) listed the KHFL as one of its four priorities for nation-building infrastructure aimed at enhancing Arctic sovereignty and security, and called for federal support to accelerate the project.
- The Province of Manitoba committed to a clean energy partnership with the Inuit government of the Kivallig region in its Affordable Energy Plan, the government's energy policy roadmap for the coming years. Manitoba's inclusion of Kivalliq partnership in its framework for the province's energy future is an important demonstration of Manitoba's support, and assurance that the KHFL is being considered as a part of the province's overall capacity and energy planning.
- Nukik signed a new agreement with the Qullig Energy Corp that will advance the planning for a clean energy future for the Kivallig region. This includes development of a Kivallig Regional Energy Plan and drafting of a Power Purchase Framework Agreement that outlines the potential terms and conditions under which QEC would purchase electricity from the KHFL. Work with QEC on these important priorities is now underway.
- A new Federal-Territorial-Provincial Working Group for the KHFL was established including senior level representation from the Governments of Canada, Nunavut and Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, and Inuit organizations.

2024-2025

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Engagement and Outreach

- · Nukik led extensive and ongoing engagement, meetings, presentations and correspondence with representatives of the Government of Canada, Members of Parliament and the Official Opposition to build awareness and support for the project.
- Nukik had ongoing engagement with Manitoba Hydro and submitted a System Impact Study request to inform the technical requirements for the KHFL to interconnect with the Manitoba Hydro system.
- Nukik launched a new regular newsletter to support community engagement and ongoing progress updates to the public and interested parties.
- Community engagement work continued including presentations to the Kivalliq Mayors Meeting, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, the Kivalliq Socio-Economic Monitoring Committee, and attendance at the Beverly and Qamanirjuag Caribou Management Board meeting in Saskatoon.
- Nukik presented, sponsored, and participated in key tradeshows and events such as the Kivalliq Tradeshow, the First Nations Major Projects Coalition Conference, the Nunavut Tradeshow, the Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada Annual Convention, the Agsarniit Trade Show and Conference, Arctic360 Annual Conference, and the Nunavut Mining Symposium.
- Partnership and collaboration with the Town of Churchill and Arctic Gateway Group continued, including signing of a data sharing agreement with the Town to support ongoing cooperation.

Technical Fieldwork and Analysis

- Dunsky Energy + Climate Advisors is advancing work on a Cost-Benefit Analysis framework to measure key project outcomes and support ongoing analysis and planning.
- Nukik and its technical experts completed the largest baseline fieldwork program to date in the past year, along with extensive planning to support timely submission to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.
- Nukik's staff complement was expanded to support the project, including hiring an intern from the Kivallig region with extensive local knowledge to work in Nukik's new Arviat office.

"Working with Nukik has allowed me to directly support community involvement including identifying resource users, Elders, women and youth to participate in workshops and support project planning and activities. I have also been able to participate in fieldwork activities, joining the helicopter and wildlife teams in their work as we travelled the incredible Kivalliq region."

JONI GIBBONS, NUKIK INTERN

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Lingonberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea) Labrador Tea (Ledum groenlandicum).



ENGAGEMENT

Nukik continues to prioritize openness and transparency in its community engagement efforts, building on an inclusive approach that has been established since the project began in 2018. The engagement process has evolved through two main phases: the pre-development phase (2018-2021), which had focused on introducing the project and gathering initial feedback, and the current development phase (2022-present), which aims at enhancing communication and collecting input on project design.



In 2024, engagement activities built upon past efforts and Nukik's ongoing commitment to keeping Indigenous rightsholders and communities near the project informed. These activities also helped confirm feedback collected through earlier engagement, making sure that Nukik understood and considered the concerns of the communities. Engagement was designed so that each community had a platform to express their views and learn more about the project.

In March 2024, Nukik traveled within the Kivalliq region to meet with community leaders, resource users, and the public in Arviat. Baker Lake. Chesterfield Inlet, and Rankin Inlet. Engagement activities included meetings with community leadership, and Hunters and Trappers Organizations, along with public events such as Facebook Live and call-in radio shows. This approach provided opportunities for leaders, resource users, and the public to engage and share their perspectives in each community.

In June 2024, Nukik traveled to several northern Manitoba communities. Nukik met with Tataskweyak Cree Nation leadership and hosted a public open house, where community members could drop in, view information posters, engage in discussions about the project, and provide feedback. In Churchill, Nukik met with local leaders and the Chamber of Commerce, followed by a public open house.



Call in radio program and Facebook Live event to share project information with community members in Baker Lake.



Nukik meeting with Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Chief and Council, June 2024.

In November 2024, Nukik met with Fox Lake Cree Nation leadership and hosted two public open houses, one in each of the communities of Bird and Gillam. Manitoba.

During these activities, detailed notes were recorded to capture feedback, which helped identify common themes and concerns.

Key Areas of Interest to Kivallirmiut:



Respect for Inuit culture and traditional land-based activities.



Environmental protection of the land, fresh water, the ocean, ice, wildlife, and their habitats.



Employment and training opportunities.



Environmental protection and mitigation of effects.



Key Areas of Interest to Northern Manitobans:

Socio-economic effects.



Ongoing, transparent community engagement.

WHAT WE'RE HEARING

Some community members raised concerns about the project's proposed route and asked about its potential effect on caribou migration, calving areas, and traditional activities such as hunting. They specifically voiced questions about the route between Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, suggesting that Nukik explore an alternative route that would avoid these ecologically sensitive and culturally important areas.

> "Every inch of our landscape was used at some point in time for resource use and harvesting. This is not wilderness. This is well used land. We are still out there."

RANKIN INLET

"When you are building the KHFL, and what kind of jobs will be available?"

ARVIAT

"We appreciate transparency and truthfulness. Earlier projects assured us that they would be environmentally friendly but that has not been the case."

TATASKWEYAK CREE NATION



Nukik with Town of Churchill Council.

"Churchill has a long-standing relationship with the Kivallia region, and we support Nukik's efforts to transition the region away from diesel electricity generation."

CHURCHILL



8.2 **LOOKING AHEAD**

As Nukik plans for the KHFL, selecting the best route is crucial before construction can start. The planning stages of a transmission project offer flexibility, allowing for route adjustments to avoid environmentally or culturally sensitive areas, or areas that are technically challenging.

Community feedback will be important throughout this process, and the next steps in engagement will seek to identify the criteria to select a preferred corridor and route for the project. Engagement will support how the evaluation of alternatives balances factors such as:

Environmental Considerations

- Fish and wildlife and their habitats
- **Ground conditions**
- Water resources
- Permafrost

Social Considerations

- Land and resource use
- Indigenous and Treaty rights
- Cultural and heritage sites
- · Proximity to communities and infrastructure

Technical Considerations

- · Project costs
- Constructability (ability to withstand adverse weather conditions)
- Access and maintenance



BASELINE DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMS

Baseline data collection is an important part of the environmental assessment process as it provides the point of reference for changes to be measured and evaluated. It helps identify environmentally sensitive areas, considers potential project impacts and mitigation, and will support decision-making throughout the project design and licensing process. The objective is to collect sufficient baseline data for Nukik to submit a project proposal to the Nunavut Planning Commission in 2026.

In 2024-2025, the focus of baseline studies was on several key areas. Studies were completed on:

- · Wildlife and wildlife habitat to understand the local ecosystems,
- Archaeology and cultural heritage to identify any culturally sensitive areas,
- Geomorphology and permafrost to learn about the land's physical characteristics, and
- Land and resource use, Indigenous Knowledge, and Inuit Qaujimajatugangit to integrate local perspectives and practices into planning.

9.1 WILDLIFE

9.1.1 FIELD PROGRAM

The wildlife field program was conducted in both Nunavut and Manitoba and had three primary objectives of the program were to:

- 1. Document wildlife presence and, track species movement patterns.
- 2. Assess wildlife habitat quality.
- 3. Gather year-round data on wildlife.

With the support of local community members, the team studied caribou, muskox, polar bears, waterfowl, birds, bats and vegetation to better understand species populations, behaviors, and ecosystem

health. Methods included conducting species surveys, deploying monitoring equipment like cameras and acoustic devices, and evaluating the health of plant communities to inform future project planning efforts.

One of the key areas of focus was waterfowl. During the spring, the team conducted brood counts, counting baby ducks and geese to gather information on how many ducklings and goslings had been born in the region. This provided insights into waterfowl populations and reproduction. Later in the season, the team conducted a fall waterfowl staging survey, studying areas where waterfowl gather before migrating south. This survey helped document the number of waterfowl in the area and their movement patterns before their long migration.

> Studies were also initiated to understand the presence (or absence) of bats near the project corridor. The team set up Bat

> > capture high-pitch sounds, known as echolocation, which bats use to navigate and locate food. The recordings allowed the team to identify which species of bats were present in the area and to monitor their activity. Additionally, the team visited and downloaded data from the Autonomous Recordina Units that had been installed earlier in the field seasons.

Autonomous Recording Units record bird call sounds, providing bird identification and other wildlife sounds in the study area.





Ultrasound Recording Unit of Hoary Bat calls.

Vegetation assessments were also conducted. The team carried out vegetation surveys at 85 different locations to study the types of plants growing in the area. This work provided essential data on plant communities and the health of the land, which serves as important baseline information for understanding the local ecosystem.

The wildlife team also installed new trail cameras in key areas, including eight in the Cape Churchill area, and an additional eight along the northern shore of Baker Lake. These cameras are in addition to the 45 installed in previous years. The cameras automatically capture images of animals as they pass by, helping the team document the presence and behavior of various species in these areas.





Caribou, Trail Camera.

Finally, the team studied polar bears by tracking their emergence from dens in late winter. The focus of this research was to locate polar bear denning sites and record the timing of their emergence from the dens. The team conducted surveys by helicopters, covering areas from Churchill to Arviat to Rankin Inlet and into Chesterfield Inlet. While in the field for these activities, the team also installed additional Autonomous Recording Units to collect data for future studies on the spring and fall movements of nesting and migratory birds.

9.1.2 NEXT STEPS

In the upcoming field season, the team will focus on gathering more information to deepen their understanding of the local ecosystem and key species near the Project's proposed corridor. This will involve monitoring wildlife and further assessing habitat conditions. The studies will focus on species such as caribou, migratory birds, bats, and other wildlife.

- Caribou Habitat and Grazing Assessment: The team will assess lichen abundance and quality, focusing on areas where caribou graze. Understanding the availability and condition of lichen is important since it is a primary food source for caribou. Observing how and where caribou graze will help evaluate how the project may affect the herds. The team will also assess all available caribou telemetry data to assist in identifying important seasonal use areas, migration corridors, calving and post calving areas which will help to inform routing options.
- Bat Monitoring: Additional Ultrasonic Recording Units will be set up on Nunavut based on local sightings to monitor bat activity. Bats play an important role in controlling insect populations, so understanding their presence in the area will help gauge the health of the ecosystem. The information collected will provide a baseline to track any changes in bat populations throughout the project's life cycle.
- Bird Surveys: The team will conduct a Spring Waterfowl Survey to monitor ducks, geese, and other migratory birds, tracking their movement patterns as they stop to rest in the region. This information will help determine when and where these birds pass through, aiding in the development of the initial project description and construction plan. In the fall, the team will carry out Migratory Bird Surveys to track the movement of waterfowl and raptors including peregrine falcons during their migration. They will also recover the Autonomous Recording Units installed in early spring to capture bird calls and activities, providing valuable data on the types of birds in the area and how they use the habitat.
- Trail Camera Maintenance: The team will check and maintain trail cameras that have been set up to monitor wildlife movement. These cameras have been collecting data on animals like caribou and wolves. Regular maintenance will help the cameras to work properly and collect wildlife movements.

9.2 **ARCHAEOLOGY**

9.2.1 FIELD PROGRAM

Archaeological fieldwork was carried out in the Kivalliq region of Nunavut and in northern Manitoba during the 2024 field season, between July and September. The field program had two primary objectives: 1) baseline data collection and 2) preinvestigation of geotechnical drill sites along the proposed project corridor. Gathering baseline data provides an understanding of the current state of archaeological resources in the project area. This allows for more informed decision-making as the project progresses. The pre-investigation of geotechnical drill sites helps identify areas where the project's planned activities, such as drilling or construction, could potentially impact archaeological or heritage resources.

To meet the baseline data collection objective, the heritage team conducted both aerial (by helicopter and drone) and walking surveys across the proposed project area. In Nunavut, the heritage team focused on the proposed project corridor, with special attention given to the Diane River area, a culturally significant location for Inuit, located to the northwest of Rankin Inlet. The team consisted of two archaeologists, a wildlife monitor, and a research assistant from Rankin Inlet, who provided invaluable local knowledge and perspectives. These activities were essential for identifying and documenting significant archaeological sites and assessing the presence of heritage resources.



Heritage team measuring a rock feature (above) near Diane River, Rankin Inlet, NU. Heritage team conducts a walking survey (below) to locate

archaeological sites and cultural materials.

In Manitoba, the heritage team focused on the proposed project corridor and the potential upgrade to the existing Churchill transmission line. This work involved conducting ground-level examinations of several previously recorded archaeological sites, and additional sites were recorded during the process. The team worked closely with research assistants from Fox Lake Cree Nation and Tataskweyak Cree Nation, integrating local knowledge and perspectives to ensure that any potential impacts to heritage resources were thoroughly assessed.



The second objective of the field program was the preinvestigation of geotechnical drill sites. The heritage team assessed 110 proposed testing locations in Nunavut to ensure that geotechnical investigations did not inadvertently harm any heritage resources.

At the conclusion of the fieldwork, heritage permit reports were prepared and submitted to Nunavut's Department of Culture and Heritage and Manitoba's Historic Resources Branch. These reports included detailed findings from the in-field assessments, analysis of the recorded sites, and recommendations for further investigations to fully assess the potential impacts on archaeological resources.



Heritage team surveying an esker for cultural materials in northern Manitoba.



Pottery found while surveying an esker in northern Manitoba.

9.2.2 NEXT STEPS

The upcoming 2025 field season will focus on gathering additional data to support the project's future impact assessment. Building on the efforts undertaken in 2024, key activities will include:

- Continued Baseline Data Collection: The heritage team will continue collecting baseline data along the proposed project corridor, aiming to identify and document additional archaeological sites and heritage resources that may not have been fully assessed during the 2024 field season.
- Guided Fieldwork Based on 2024 Findings: The team will use the findings from the 2024 surveys to focus fieldwork on areas of high archaeological potential. Both aerial and walking surveys will be conducted, particularly in areas where conditions in 2024 prevented full investigation.
- Follow-up Assessments of Newly Identified Sites: Newly identified sites will undergo follow-up assessments to ensure that any potential impacts on heritage resources are carefully documented and addressed.
- Collaboration with Local Communities: The heritage team will continue to work closely with local research assistants and community members, ensuring that cultural values are respected and incorporated into the site assessments.

Overall, the 2025 field season will refine the baseline data necessary for the impact assessment and inform strategies for mitigating potential impacts.

9.3 **GEOMORPHOLOGY** AND PERMAFROST

9.3.1 FIELD PROGRAM

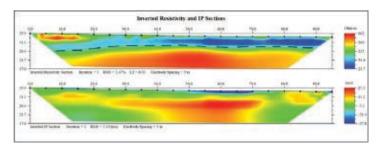
Important progress was made in gathering subsurface data along the KHFL corridor. This information is critical to inform technical design and routing for the project. The program balanced the need to collect subsurface information while considering the technical and logistics barriers of working in the north.

This progress was achieved through careful planning in the spring and a heritage screening process. This was followed by an initial geotechnical investigation during the summer and fall. The program involved two main phases of geotechnical site investigation followed by data analysis and interpretation.

Phase 1 - Geophysical Survey and Site Characterization

The goal of Phase I was to survey and model the type of soil, rock and ice along the project corridor in Nunavut. This would allow Nukik to be more strategic about its use of drilling along the project corridor.

A total of 110 sites were planned for geophysical surveys, which involve testing the ground to understand its properties, along with site checks to examine the ground at specific locations. After a screening to ensure there were no potential heritage or cultural sites (see Section 9.3), 107 of these sites were cleared for investigation. Field teams included a permafrost specialist, a surficial geologist (a scientist who studies the surface layers of the Earth), and a wildlife monitor from one of the nearby communities who traveled by helicopter from Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet.



Geotechnical survey data imagery of soil types.



Collecting data from soil outside of Rankin Inlet.

The teams used a steel frost probe (a long tool with a handle used to check for frozen ground) to detect frozen ground and buried boulders. They also dug test pits to examine the materials on the surface. In both cases, they found the soils near to the surface to be mostly sandy and wet.

Ground-based geophysical surveys were done using a system that combined electrical resistivity tomography and induced polarization. Electrical resistivity tomography measures how easily the ground allows electricity to flow, and induced polarization looks at how the ground responds to electric currents. To do so, small metal electrodes, like tent pegs, were placed in the ground to measure how the ground reacts to electric currents. This data helped determine the type of soil, rock, moisture, and ice content. Initial findings suggested that bedrock was as shallow as 2 metres in some places where it was not visible at the surface.

By the end of Phase 1, the data collected included 107 site characterizations. 107 electrical resistivity tomography and induced polarization surveys (tests to measure how electricity moves through the ground), 827 frost probe measurements, 146 soil pits, and 42 additional observation points (places where extra notes were taken).

Phase 2 - Investigative Drilling and Thermistor Installation

The goal of Phase 2 was to calibrate the findings of the Phase I work and to demonstrate that a lightweight drilling system could deliver sufficient information to design a foundation piling for the KHFL.

Following Phase 1, 20 sites near Rankin Inlet were selected for further investigation using lightweight drilling techniques (drilling that uses smaller, more portable equipment). The team included a permafrost specialist, a surficial geologist, a driller, and a local wildlife monitor based in Rankin Inlet. Due to unusually wet and foggy weather, the program was shortened, as helicopter access and safety were affected, and only eight sites were completed.

The team used a lightweight Shock-Auger drilling system and collected samples for analysis from eight sites. The drill allowed them to sample both the active layer (the top layer of soil that thaws and freezes each year) and permafrost (permanently frozen ground) sediments down to bedrock, reaching a depth of 5.35 metres.



Field Crew Using A Shock Auger Drill, Rankin Inlet, NU.

Thermistors, devices that measure temperature, were installed at two sites near Rankin Inlet to monitor ground temperatures. These sensors were placed inside plastic tubes and positioned every 25 centimetres in the drilled holes. A solar-powered data logger connected to a steel pipe above the ground recorded information. The data loggers were set up for manual data retrieval, with the first download completed in early 2025. These loggers may also transmit data via satellite if needed.



Thermistor Installation



9.4 **LAND USE AND OCCUPANCY STUDY, INUIT QAUJIMAJATUQANGIT AND** INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

9.4.1 FIELD PROGRAM

Gathering knowledge about Inuit land use practices helps to understand areas of importance for land and resource use, which, as the KHFL progresses, will be important for understanding any potential impacts related to the project. In discussing land and resource use, people also share Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which provides another information source to all teams based on what the Inuit have always known to be true. In 2024-2025, studies focused on inviting Kivallig communities to share their land use practices and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit; which is Inuit Knowledge encompassing the wisdom and practices that have been passed down through the generations of Inuit. This work aimed to improve understandings of how Kivallirmiut (Inuit of the Kivalliq region) use the land and resources near the project. A series of workshops were held in the communities of Arviat, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Rankin Inlet, and Whale Cove.

During these workshops, community members were asked to share information about their land use, including where they harvest animals, critical wildlife habitat, travel routes, and places that are important for cultural reasons. Over 100 people participated, showing how important it is to stay connected to the land to maintain cultural identity.



Land Use Mapping Workshop, Whale Cove, NU.



Land Use Mapping Workshop held in Arviat, NU, with Hunters and Trappers Organization.

Local researchers, who were hired and trained on research methods and engagement planning, played a key role in running these workshops. Their knowledge of the community helped create a welcoming environment where everyone felt comfortable sharing their views. Their involvement made sure that Elders, resource users, and other community members were able to contribute, leading to more meaningful discussions.

The information gathered from these workshops showed how Kivallirmiut interacted with the land and highlighted the importance of traditional land-based practices in maintaining cultural identity. The insights about harvesting, travel routes, and cultural landmarks highlighted the strong bond between the community and their land.

9.4.2 LOOKING AHEAD

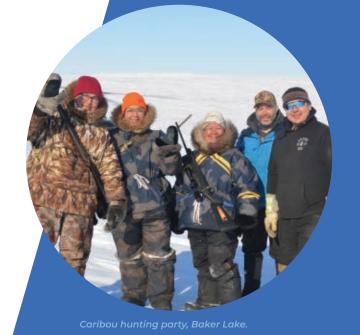
Looking ahead, the research team will focus on verifying the information gathered during the workshops. This will include sharing the initial findings with community members to ensure accuracy and address any gaps or concerns.

- Information Verification and Community Feedback: Community members will be invited to review the data collected to confirm its accuracy and provide any additional insights. This process will help record any missing details and help make sure that all significant land use areas and cultural sites are included in the project planning.
- Northern Manitoba Initiatives: Efforts to collect similar information in northern Manitoba are also being considered. The approaches for this work will be developed in close collaboration with Indigenous communities in the region to ensure it is both respectful and culturally appropriate.

This ongoing engagement and validation process will help incorporate Indigenous Knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the project, promoting stronger community involvement and more informed decision-making.



Mountain Avens (Dryas octopetala).



NEXT STEPS

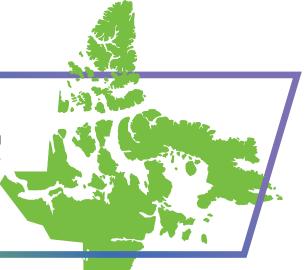
As Nukik looks ahead, the organization is committed to advancing the project with a focus on careful planning and a dedication to openness and transparency. To make informed decisions, Nukik will engage in several important activities:

- 1. Engagement with Communities: Engaging with Indigenous communities, particularly Inuit communities, including Elders and resource users, will continue to be a key activity. The project will support the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, working closely with communities to find the best way to incorporate this important knowledge.
- 2. Data Collection and Analysis: Nukik is committed to making informed decisions based on the best available information. Additional data will be gathered through conversations with communities and through field activities to better understand both the physical environment and human aspects related to the project.
- 3. Corridor and Route Selection Process: Prior to an initial project proposal being filed with the Nunavut Planning Commission, Nukik will undertake a corridor and route selection process, which will include engagement with interested parties and local communities and evaluate alternatives through the lenses of human, natural, and engineering considerations.
- 4. Regulatory Submission: The corridor and route selection process will contribute to future regulatory processes with the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Manitoba Environment and Climate Change.

By taking this thorough approach, Nukik aims to choose the best corridor for the project while meeting regulatory requirements and considering community feedback. This will support a smooth transition to the next phases of the project.

Visit www.nukik.ca or contact Nukik at info@nukik.ca to learn more about the organization and the KHFL.

Matna. Thank you.



"As we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of creating a sustainable and prosperous future for the Kivalliq region."

> Anne-Raphaëlle Audouin Chief Executive Officer



PROJECT TEAM AND SUPPORT This section includes description of service providers undertaking the initial preliminary studies along the proposed KHFL development corridor. NUKIK ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT 2025 | 29

PROJECT TEAM AND SUPPORT



BERNADETTE DEAN

Bernadette Dean is an experienced interpreter, adept at bridging linguistic and cultural gaps. With two decades of experience, she facilitates effective communication in diverse settings, from legal proceedings to international conferences. Fluent in Inuktitut and English, Bernadette ensures accuracy, confidentiality, and professionalism, earning trust from clients and colleagues alike. She strongly believes that in interpreting, both sides must be on the same page, fostering mutual understanding and cooperation.



Chadwick Consulting is a Manitoba-based firm focusing on Indigenous relations and northern issues. The firm specializes in project management and stakeholder relations, as well as planning, media, and government relations. Chadwick Consulting works closely with the project team on efforts related to government relations, including the Government of Nunavut as well as the Federal and Manitoba governments and takes the lead on project communications. Chadwick Consulting also represents the project in public forums, updates the Kivalliq Inuit Association and Nukik Boards and leadership on activities, and presents recommendations to advance the overall project development.



HILARIE MAKPAH

Hilarie Makpah is an Inuk woman residing in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, where she works as a translator. Raised in Chesterfield Inlet, she developed a strong connection to her heritage and language early on. Through her role, Hilarie facilitates communication between Inuktitut and English speakers, contributing to cultural understanding. Beyond her professional duties, she supports initiatives promoting Inuit languages and traditions, reflecting her commitment to preserving her community's heritage. Hilarie's work underscores the importance of linguistic and cultural preservation in the Arctic region.



InterGroup Consultants Ltd. (InterGroup) is an independent, multi-disciplinary firm based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with 50 years of experience providing a wide range of consulting services to clients and industries across Canada. InterGroup provides leading-edge consulting services in managing project development, multi-stakeholder processes, public engagement, socioeconomic research, heritage and cultural resources, and economic analyses. The InterGroup team provides advice on the strategic development, regulatory and licensing considerations for the project, along with planning and implementation of engagement efforts, socioeconomics, IQ/IK, archaeology, and heritage for the future environmental assessment.



Joro Consultants Inc. (Joro) is a Manitoba owned and operated environmental consulting firm specializing in wildlife research, monitoring, and environmental assessment. Joro has extensive experience with large biological monitoring and environmental assessment undertakings and has experience in presenting data and findings as part of environmental and cumulative impact assessments involving terrestrial and avian wildlife. They specialize in caribou, large mammals, geospatial analysis for industry, Indigenous communities, governments and academia. Joro has worked with a variety of academic, corporate, government, and First Nations community partners. Their mission is to provide innovative and efficient services to address original research questions as well as prevent, mitigate, and monitor environmental effects of development. Canadian-owned and operated since 1992, Joro is a committed team of highly trained personnel including wildlife biologists, ecologists, geographic information systems (GIS) technicians, field technicians, and environmental professionals. The Joro team provides support on the initial terrestrial wildlife and habitat assessment for the project. Joro also prides itself with many years of Indigenous capacity building and including local community resource users in their field programs.



SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd. ("SLR"), which recently acquired Palmer Environmental Consulting Group, is a global consultancy offering environmental, geoscience, engineering, and advisory solutions to businesses. regulatory bodies, and government clients. This acquisition enhances SLR's capabilities in permafrost, surficial geology, geohazards mapping, and risk management, thanks to their team of geoscience and environmental professionals across Canada. SLR has extensive experience in northern regions, specializing in geomorphology, permafrost, hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, and environmental permitting. Their team is renowned in northern Canada for their expertise in characterizing and mapping geomorphology and permafrost using high-resolution imagery and topographic data. These skills are applied in various fields, including the routing and design of linear infrastructure (e.g., transmission lines, roads/highways), aggregate resource assessment, mineral exploration, archaeological studies, and ecosystem mapping. The SLR team provides essential support for the initial geomorphological and permafrost assessment of projects.



Sarliag Holdings Ltd. (Sarliag) is a Rankin Inlet based company that provides logistical support for large- or small-scale development in the Kivalliq region. Sarliaq provides freight moving and delivery within town, to and from mine sites, or out on the land. Currently Sarliad supports Agnico Eagle Mines with employee transportation to and from the Meliadine mine site. Sarliag also builds hunting and survival equipment including cabins, gamutiks, and trailers. With extremely professional services, the Sarliag team is an invaluable resource to the project team. The project routinely relies on Sarliag for vehicles while in community as well as coordination of experienced local hires for all disciplines of fieldwork.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Share your thoughts about the Kivalliq Hydro-Fibre Link and sign up for our newsletter.

VISIT Nukik.ca EMAIL info@nukik.ca



X /KivalliqLink or NukikCorp