



FROM: Uvagut TV and Nunavut Independent Television Network (NITV) Board of Directors
TO: Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), Formal Intervenors and public media
DATE: April 12, 2021

Igloolik's NITV Board of Directors agreed Friday April 9 to obey the Nunavut Impact Review Board's April 6 order not to rebroadcast, without its prior written consent, NIRB Public Hearings on Baffinland's Mary River Phase 2 Development Proposal previously broadcast live by Uvagut TV from January 25 to February 6, 2021.

"We know we are being censored. We want to find out who is censoring us," reports NITV Board Member Zacharias Kunuk on behalf of NITV's Board. "It's not the Inuit way to be confrontational."

NITV launched Uvagut TV, Canada's first Inuktitut-language Inuit broadcaster, on January 18, 2021 and began broadcasting NIRB's reconvened Public Hearings live throughout Nunavut and nationally by satellite and cable TV on January 25. This expanded TV coverage followed eight years of NITV-NIRB collaboration to inform and consult Inuit from 2012 to 2019 by filming, broadcasting and rebroadcasting NIRB Baffinland proceedings online on IsumaTV. NITV rebroadcasts include NIRB's November 2019 suspended Public Hearings, which are still available to the public now at <http://www.isuma.tv/find/NIRB> and have been rebroadcast on Uvagut TV with no complaints of interference or invasion of privacy.

Following past practices of collaboration with NIRB, on March 23 Uvagut TV proposed to repeat broadcasts of January-February live daytime Hearings during evening and overnight hours at times more convenient to community members because of work, school, childcare or other commitments so more Inuit could be informed.

On April 8 Uvagut TV offered to broadcast live the continuing April 12-25 Hearings asking advance permission to rebroadcast following the same past practices with NIRB since November 2019. Uvagut TV agrees that only Intervenors and other Community participants who consent to be rebroadcast will be included in any rebroadcast.

On April 10 NIRB responded to NITV lawyer Tess Layton, stating: *"The Panel continues to be in decision-making, with two Public Hearing sessions having been completed in November 2019 and January-February 2021 and the third session upcoming. The Board's policy with respect to rebroadcast or retransmission has remained the same, that while the Board is engaged in decision-making, the Board will not consider requests for rebroadcast or retransmission of the proceedings associated with the assessment."*



However, NIRB's policy with respect to rebroadcast or retransmission has not "remained the same." In November 2019 NIRB permitted NITV to rebroadcast Public Hearings on IsumaTV. NIRB now seeks to limit wider access to information by community members by prohibiting reasonable and necessary rebroadcast of Public Hearings that impact the future of all Inuit.

Following NIRB's April 6 direction:

NITV asks for advance permission for Uvagut TV to rebroadcast April Hearings on Uvagut TV during evening and overnight hours so that more Inuit have the opportunity to view them with regard to work, school, childcare and other daytime commitments of many community members. Uvagut TV agrees to rebroadcast only Intervenors and Community participants who consent to be rebroadcast.

NITV also asks for advance permission for Uvagut TV to retransmit in Igloolik by DVD, hard drive projection or other technical means, the eight Formal Interventions broadcast live February 5-6, 2021 by the eight Intervenors who already consented to NITV's March 23 proposal to re-broadcast them: Pond Inlet Hamlet and Hunter and Trappers Association; Hamlet of Sanirajak; Igloolik Working Group on behalf of Hamlet and HTA; Ikajutit Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Association; Hamlet of Igloolik; Hamlet of Clyde River; Oceans North; and World Wildlife Fund. Since cable TV was cut off in Igloolik by a Coop fire in January, Igloolik community members will have no way to see these important and historic Interventions without some form of rebroadcast or retransmission of the live telecast.

As Canada's first Inuit TV channel governed by principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, Uvagut TV cannot agree to live broadcast NIRB Hearings under conditions that restrict Inuit access to watch them, and that limit Inuit constitutional rights to be informed and consulted as much as possible using modern media.

Uvagut TV offers again to broadcast live NIRB's April 12-25 Public Hearings following past practices of responsible rebroadcast that give more Inuit the opportunity to see them.

Respectfully submitted,
Nunavut Independent Television Network Board of Directors

For media contact:
Cynthia Amsden, Roundstone Communications
416.910.7740
cynthia@roundstonepr.com