

NITV LEGAL MOTION FOR BROADCAST & REBROADCAST RIGHTS TO NIRB HEARINGS

A timeline

November, 2019 - The second phase of NIRB public hearings into the Phase 2 Expansion of Baffinland's Mary River mine get underway in Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. Building on earlier collaboration with NIRB established in 2012 with the aim of enhancing Inuit access to the decision-making process, NITV makes proceedings available online in video and audio format via the www.isuma.tv web platform as part of a project called [Digital Indigenous Democracy](#).

Jan 25 to Feb 6, 2021 - Newly launched Uvagut TV, Canada's first Inuktitut-language TV channel (owned and operated by NITV), live broadcasts the new round of Phase 2 public hearings in Inuktitut on national television. Given the slow speed and high cost of Internet in the Arctic, these TV broadcasts dramatically increase accessibility for Inuit.

April 6, 2021- NIRB denies a request from Uvagut TV to rebroadcast the January and February hearings (aimed at Inuit who were not able to watch the original broadcast) claiming that rebroadcasting hearing could "interfere, disrupt or distract from the board's objective in conducting proceedings."

April 12, 2021 - NIRB hearings resume but are suspended on April 14 due to confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Iqaluit. Uvugat TV lives broadcasts only one day of proceedings.

Sept 15, 2021 - NITV submits a legal motion requesting permission to both broadcast and rebroadcast the upcoming round of hearings, scheduled for Nov 1 to 6, 2021 and provide catch-up rebroadcasts of earlier sessions.

Additional Context for the Legal Motion

At stake is ensuring Inuit have the opportunity to meaningfully engage in Public Hearings into resource development on Inuit lands. Most impacted Inuit live in small isolated communities, they are unable to attend the Hearings in person, and given the unreliability and high cost of Internet in the Arctic, many cannot follow proceedings online. While live broadcasts on Uvagut TV have dramatically increased accessibility, many people are unable to watch the hearings live (January sessions began at 9am and would often run late into the evening) because of work, childcare or other obligations. While transcripts of proceedings are available on the NIRB website, the option of reading and deciphering multiple online documents is inaccessible to most. As Madeline Ivalu, from Igloodik explains in her affidavit: "Accessing all the material about the hearings posted on NIRB's website is not an option for me. I do not use the internet. I am a unilingual Inuktitut speaker."

All related documents including the NITV Motion and supporting affidavits from Anita Uttuvak, Jayco Ootoowak and Madeline Ivalu can be accessed via the [NIRB public registry](#).