

# ᑕᓴᓐᑕᓄᓐ TUSAQTAUT



MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT  
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ΔΕΔΕ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΙΑΚΟ ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ

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**INUIT ASSOCIATION**

Two other organizations operate under the QIA umbrella: Kakivak Association, responsible for community economic development and small businesses; and Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, created to manage economic development on behalf of QIA.







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## MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT

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Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation (Baffinland) Mary River mine is located in Nunavut's Qikiqtani Region. The Mary River Mine is located on the northern interior of Baffin Island, roughly halfway between Ikpikitturjuaq (Steensby Inlet) to the south, and Milne Inlet to the north.

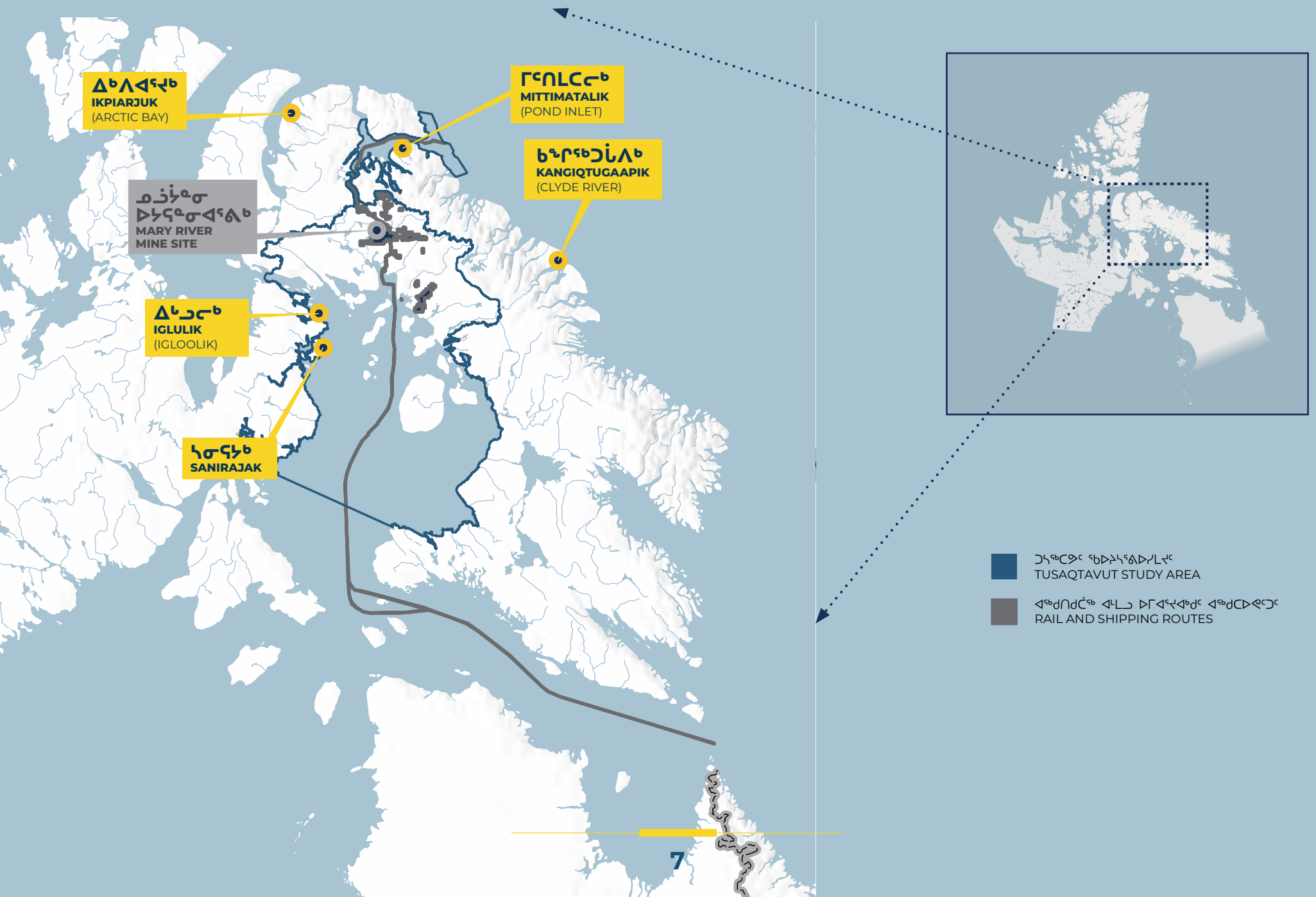
The Mary River mine has been operating since 2014. The currently Mary River Mine Project's operations include mining iron ore, trucking the ore from the mine site to Milne Port and transporting the ore overseas for sale.

Baffinland is now proposing the Mary River Mine Project Phase 2, which includes the expansion of iron mining, and a new railway to carry ore from the mine site to the port at Milne Inlet. In the future Baffinland may propose further phases of project expansion including a southern railway to carry ore to another port on Steensby Inlet.



**ᐃᓂᓴᓂ ᐅᓴᑦᓂᐱᖅ ᐱᓕᓚᖅ**

# MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT



**ᐱᕈᕋᖃᑦᑕᓂᔪᑦ ᑕᕐᕋᖃᑦᑕᓗᑦ ᖃᑭᑲᕐᕈᕋᕐᑕ: ᑕᕐᕋᖃᑦᑕᓗᑦ**

**QIA'S TUSAQTAVUT STUDIES: WHAT WE HEARD**

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ፅግብ 2019 ዓ.ም. ለፌዴራል 2021 ዓ.ም. የሚከተሉት የጥቅም ስልጣን ለሚሰጡት 137 ሚኒስቴሮች ሲሰጥ፣ 19 ሚኒስቴሮች፣ 26 ሚኒስቴሮች፣ 26 ሚኒስቴሮች፣ 54 ሚኒስቴሮች፣ ለፌዴራል 12 ሚኒስቴሮች፣

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To understand the potential impacts of the Mary River Mine Project on land use and the Inuit way of life, Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) travelled to the five impacted communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Sanirajak to conduct interviews with Inuit and local knowledge holders.

Between February 2019 and April 2021, QIA interviewed 137 community members from the five Mary River impacted communities: 19 from Arctic Bay, 26 from Clyde River, 26 from Igloolik, 54 from Pond Inlet and 12 from Sanirajak.

These interviews were drawn on to create three reports, the Tusaqtavut Reports, that were submitted to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB).

כְּיָבֵצְךָ אֵלֶּכְךָ בְּכַפְּךָ “כְּיָבֵצְךָ” אֶמְכֹּרְךָ

## TUSAQTAVUT MEANS 'WHAT WE HEARD' IN INUKTITUT











## HOW WERE THE TUSAQTAVUT STUDIES COMPLETED?

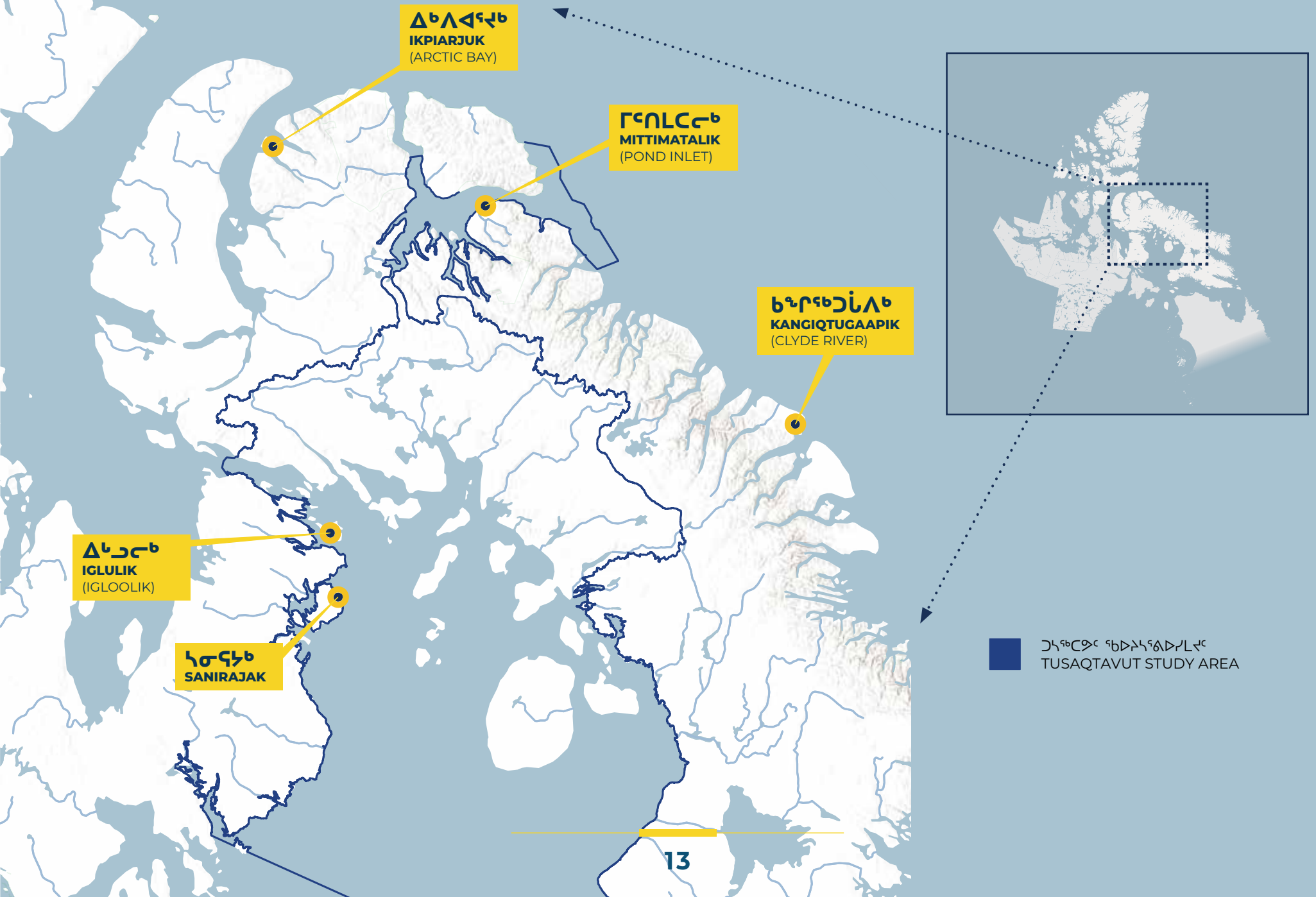
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The themes identified were consistent across the five impacted communities and included the importance of harvesting on-the-land and water, fishing, freshwater, the ability to travel and stay out on-the-land, and the importance of Inuit culture and passing on this knowledge to future generations. This report is organized around these themes and includes maps of locations of importance for Inuit use and culture.





# ՇԿԵՐԾԻ ԳԵՃԱԿՃԱԾԴԼԻՐԸ TUSAQTAVUT STUDY AREA



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## HOW WILL QIA USE THIS INFORMATION?

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

QIA conducted these studies in order to ensure that Inuit were speaking for Inuit in the NIRB assessment process for Baffinland's Phase 2 proposal. The deep community knowledge, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and accumulated experience represented in the reports is communicated through quotes from Inuit and maps.

QIA will use this information and the reports to advocate for the rights of Inuit, to live in a clean and healthy landscape, to pursue their traditional activities, and to benefit from responsible and safe resource development on their own terms.

QIA staff were pleased to be able to speak to so many knowledgeable Inuit, to learn from Elders, and to experience the many generations of wisdom and experience that Inuit have to offer.





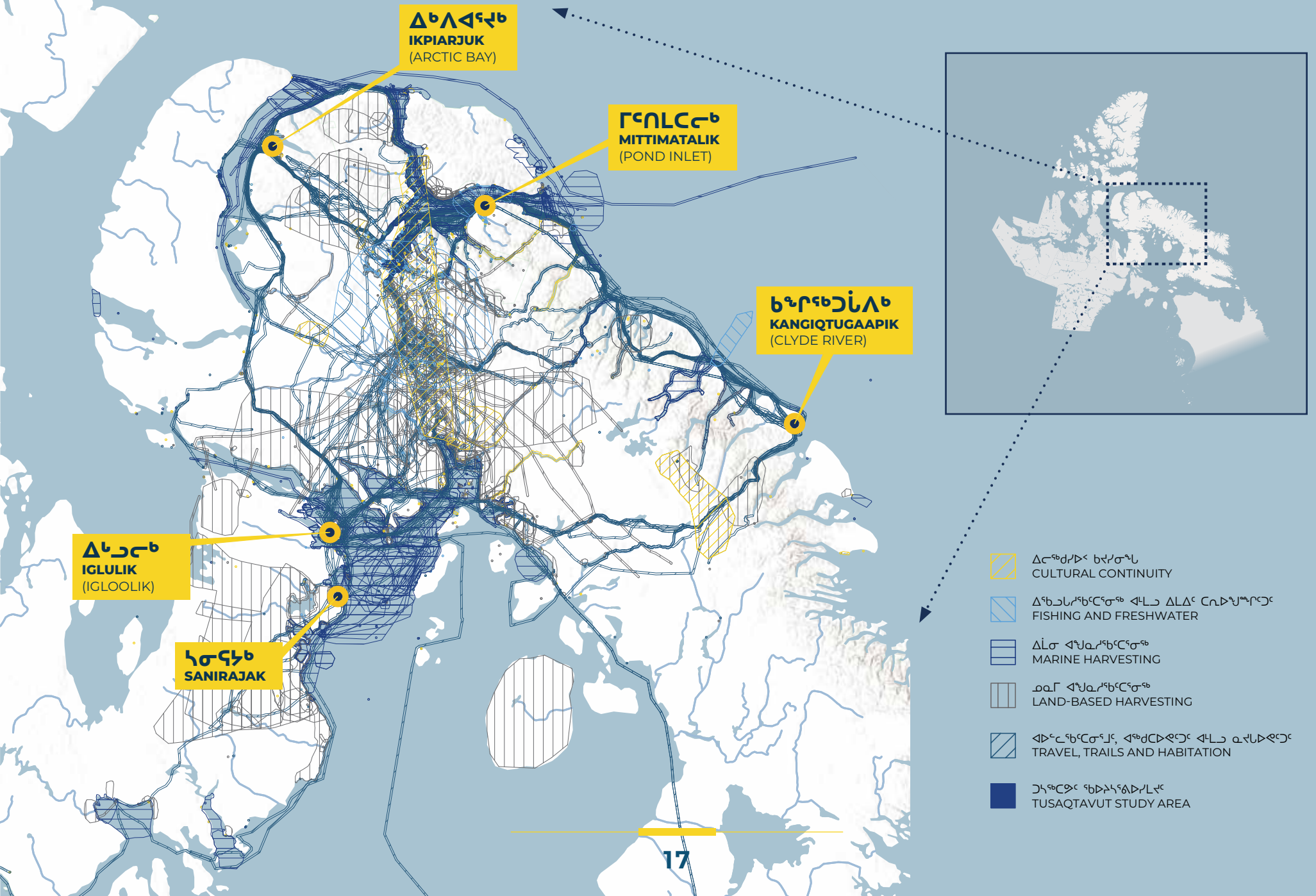
## WHAT WE HEARD

[illegible]

Community members also described how they access the land and sea, as well as campsites and cabins using snowmobiles, ATVs, and dog teams to travel vast distances across Baffin Island. From hunting spots and habitat for ringed seal, walrus, narwhal, and caribou, to catch-sites for Arctic char and Atlantic salmon, to areas relied on for the continuity of Inuit culture, such as teaching areas, sod houses, and gathering places.



# ለፕላንናፕላን ልማትና ልማት AREAS OF IMPORTANCE IDENTIFIED BY INUIT

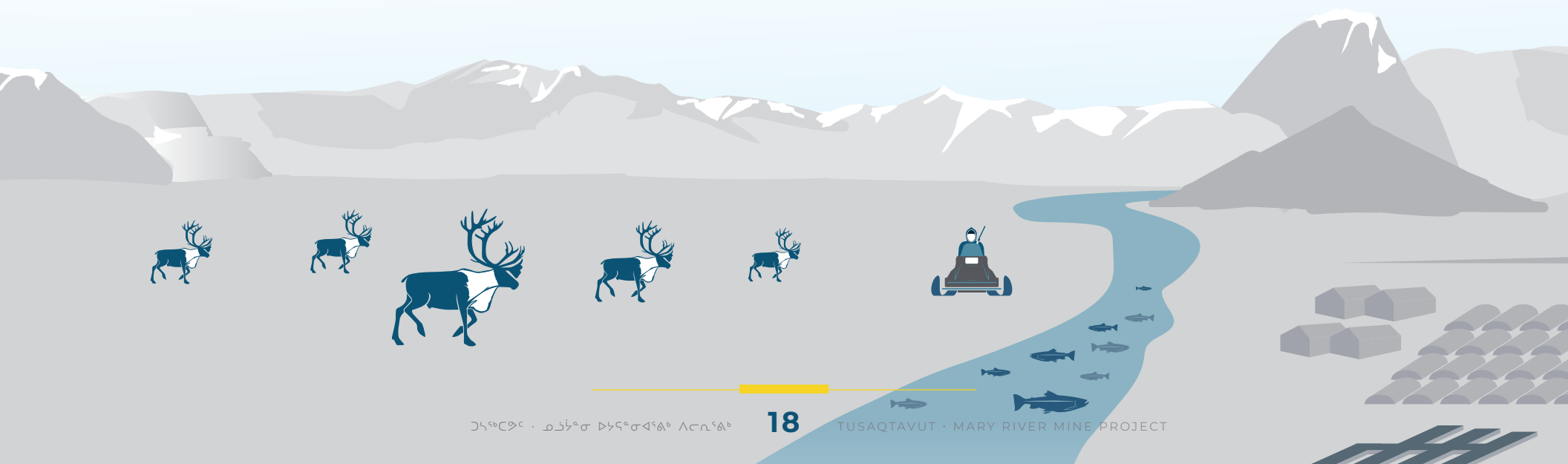


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It is clear that the Mary River Mine Project is located in an area of great importance for the communities of Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Sanirajak.

Many places, both on-the-land and in the marine environment – including the sea ice and floe edge – were discussed by community members as important places. This includes the coastlines and interior of Baffin Island, northern Melville Peninsula and northern Foxe Basin, Eclipse Sound, Tremblay Sound, Milne Inlet, and Phillips Creek, to name a few.





[illegible]

- [illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

Many community members are concerned about the expansion of mining activities proposed as part of the Mary River Mine Project including:

- Loss of animal habitat – from shipping routes and noise from the mine
- Disturbances to caribou migration and populations – from rail development and train collisions
- The spread of pollution – from dust and fuel spills
- Loss of harvesting areas
- Impacts to traditional areas of significance – camps, archaeological sites, interruptions to the flow of cultural knowledge between generations.

These and other potential impacts to important places and values are described throughout this document – including through the voices and words of community members themselves.

A wide variety of impacts were documented during the interviews with community members. Combined with impacts from existing operations and other changes, the impacts of the Mary River Mine Project, will directly and indirectly impact the ability of Inuit from Arctic Bay, Clyde River, Igloodik, Pond Inlet, and Sanirajak to hunt, fish, travel, harvest, and share knowledge between generations on-the-land, ice and water.









ΔΙΣ Δ'ΕΥΔΡ'ΕΒ'ΕΖ'ΕΘ'ΕΒ

## MARINE HARVESTING

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Many animals in the marine environment are important to Inuit. Community members harvest marine animals to feed themselves, their families and their communities. Harvesting happens all year-round and provides not only food, but the raw materials for making clothing, tools, and art. Community members harvest many kinds of marine animals, including various kinds of seal (such as ringed, bearded, and harp), narwhal and beluga and bowhead whales, and polar bear.

Community members showed us important habitat for these animals, including migration routes, and calving and feeding areas, as well as places important for harvesting and processing animals, such as camps and cache sites. Harvesting marine animals is central to the Inuit way of life.

We heard that to be able to harvest marine animals successfully, and knowing how to use the animals fully, requires a lot of special knowledge and experience. This includes knowing where and when to go harvesting, about animal behaviours, and special harvesting skills (like how to kill a walrus without losing it in the water).

A lot of this knowledge is passed on from teacher to student, generation to generation. Inuit often begin harvesting at a young age, and marine harvesting skills are passed down through families while people are out on-the-land.

[illegible]

We also heard from some people that certain species are being seen in fewer numbers than in the past.

Like many other activities on-the-land and water, harvesting marine animals is a social activity. Whether hunting for whales, seal, or walrus, people are often out on-the-land and sea with family and friends. We also heard that sharing a successful hunt is an important part of Inuit culture.

“I’ll probably keep hunting around this area until I die. I do it for my kids so they learn. I hunt all year-round, I catch about 150 seals per year and give the meat to our Elders and people who need food.”

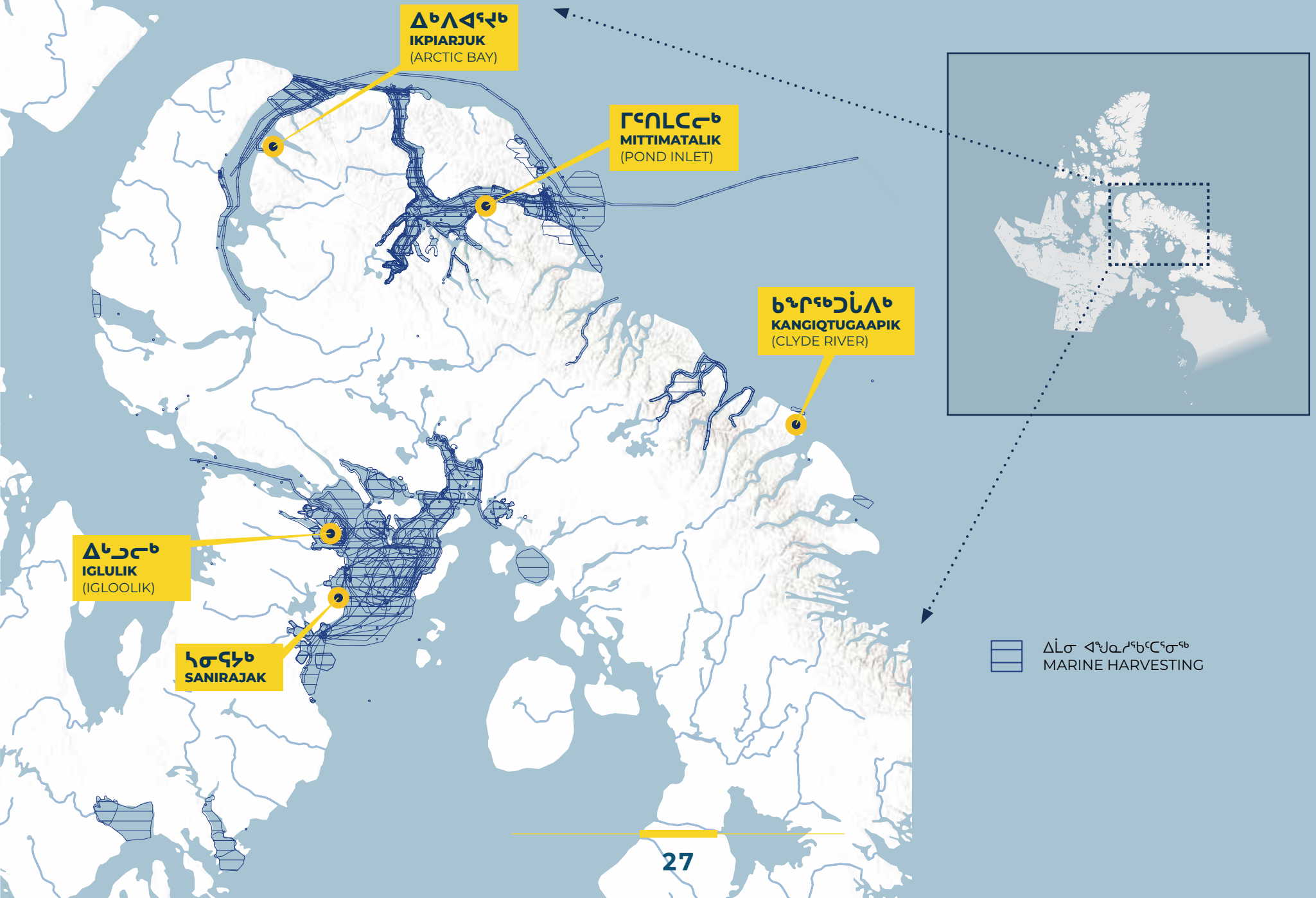








# ԱԼԼՈՍԹՅՐԸ ՃԼՏ ՎՅԱԴԳՆԵՐՏԵՐ IMPORTANT AREAS FOR MARINE HARVESTING



## IMPACTS OF THE MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT ON MARINE HARVESTING

[illegible]

Because of the Mary River Mine Project, community members expect there to be fewer animals such as walrus, seals, polar bears, and whales in places where they traditionally hunt (e.g., Milne Inlet area). We heard that this would mean fewer opportunities to pass on hunting knowledge which may impact food security more.





## LAND-BASED HARVESTING

[illegible]

During interviews, community members discussed the many ways in which animal furs and hides are used to make clothing, and the techniques needed to do this successfully.

“Our family and community members used this area before the Mary River mine was established. It was the main area where our community would go to harvest animals or mine soapstone.”

[illegible]

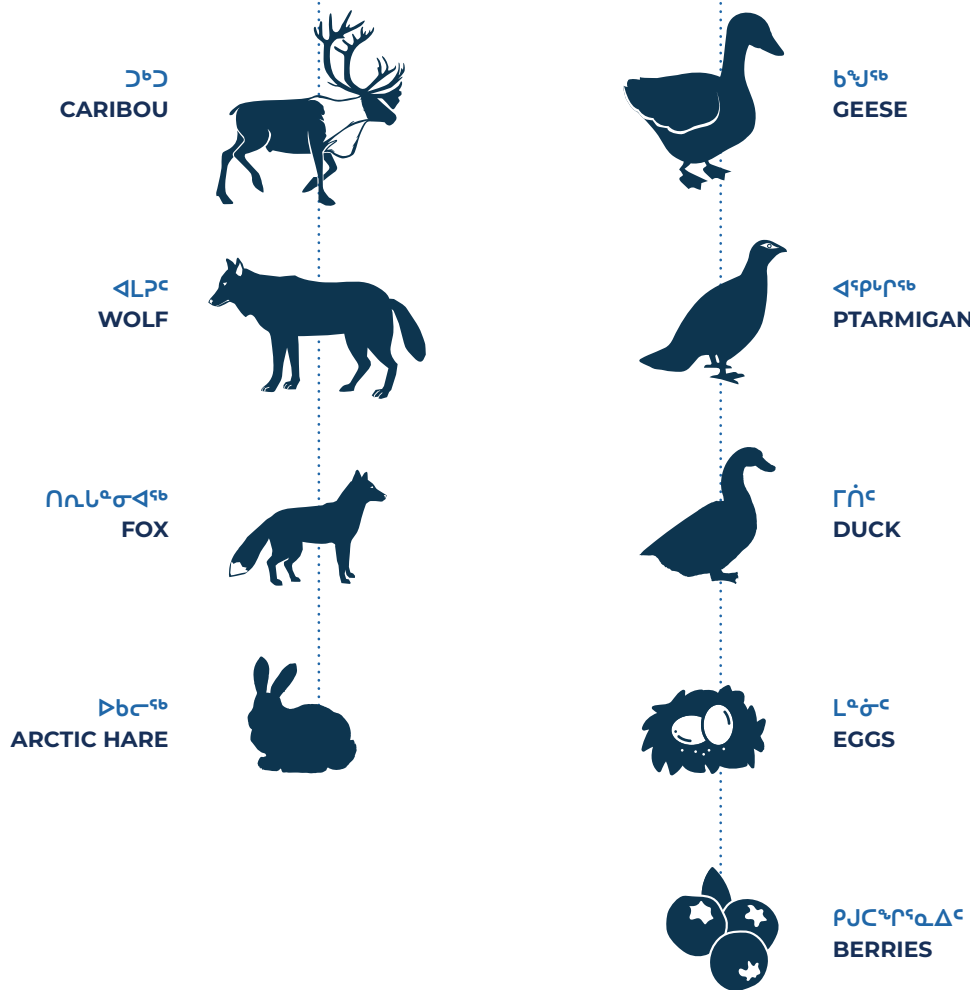
ጋንዮፕረጋር ልዎሮ መሮጥሮ ወፈ ላህላዊኖርኖጭ፣ ርልኒካልዊጭ ልከሮ ላህላዊኖርኖጋፒህሊር፣ ለሂሊከጋኛጋሮ ልርከኃሂር ልወል ልዕኦሎዊ፣ ማዮካኔርጋርጋፒህሊር፣ ላፍኔርጋርጋፒህሊር/ዮዮርጋርጋፒህሊር፣ ላሂ ላህሎዊ ላጋጭጋላዊጋሮ ላጋጋጭጋሮ ላዊልፒሊከጋፍኔኖሙሎዊ ላሂ ልርካዊጋሙሎዊ፣ ወደር ልዊሎዊ ልኔኖፕረጋር ወፈጋጭ ላህላዊኖርኖጭ ኔፅጋሊርከጋርጋጋሂር ማዮካኔርከጋላፍኖሙሎዊ፣ ላሂ ኮሂርከጋሂርጋሂር ሶፅጋልዊጋዊ ወደዊጋዊ፣ ላፈጋዊ ልወዊ፣ ማዮካኔፕሮኖርኖጭ ወፈ ልርከኃሂር ሶፅኖሎዊ ላሂ ለጋኔፕረጋሙሎዊ፣

We learned that different parts of animals of different ages are used for specific purposes, such as sewing hats, boots, bedding, and materials for sleds. We learned that caribou are very important for their meat and hides. Additionally, Inuit from all five communities also trap and hunt for other animals like wolves, foxes, different species of bird, and gather eggs. The furs of wolves and foxes are highly valued, and eggs are a favourite source of food for many.

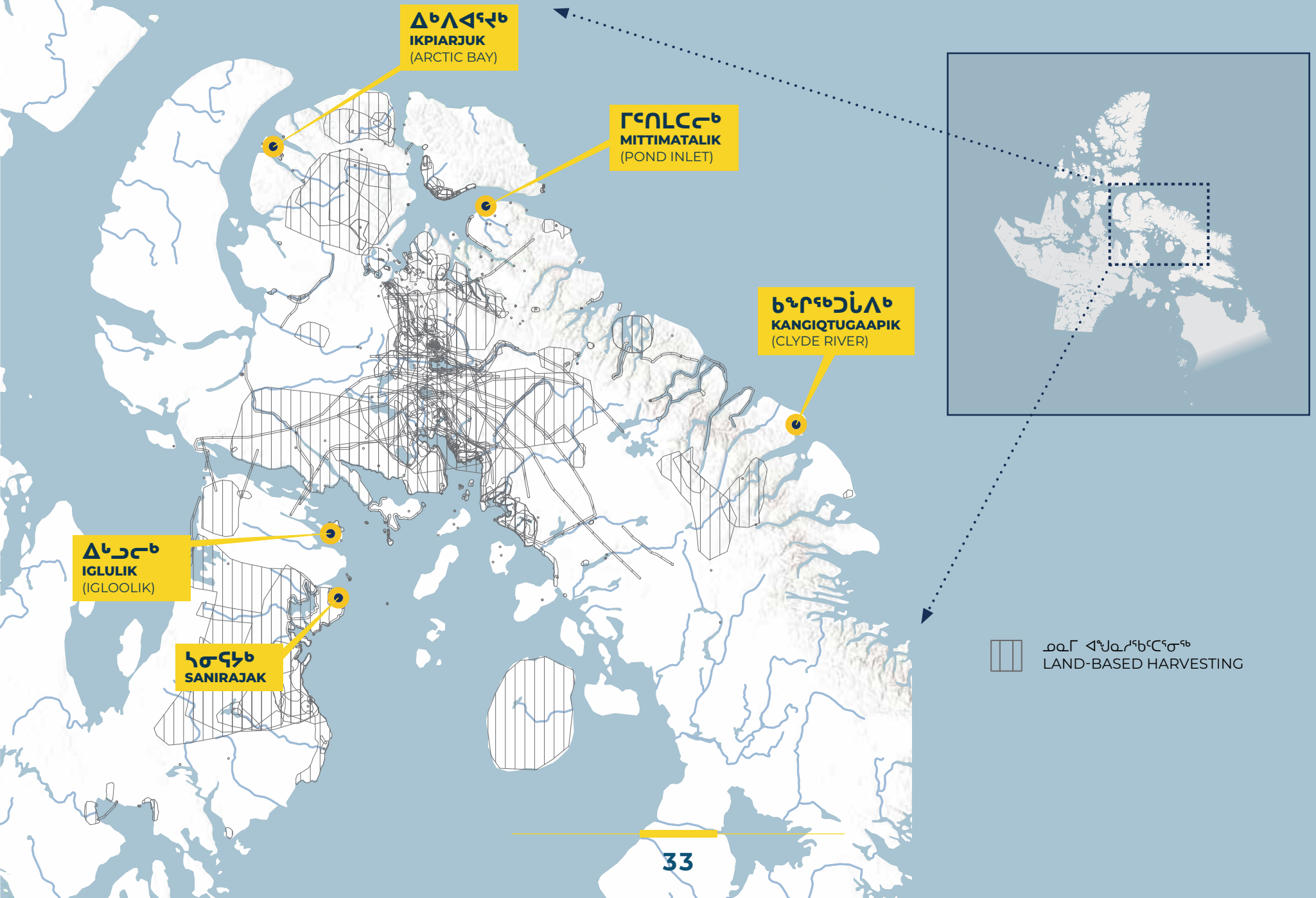
We heard from Inuit community members that land-based harvesting, like marine harvesting, is an important part of the Inuit way of life. It is a way to get food, furs, and other resources that are important for survival and identity. Community members told us that land-based harvesting ensures that there is enough food on the table, and is good for the health of people and the communities. For many Inuit, harvesting on-the-land is a part of who they are and how they grew up.



ማዕከላዊ ምርት ለሰላም ለማድረግ  
 Commonly Harvested Animals and Plants On-The-Land



# ለፍጥነት ስራ ለማድረግ IMPORTANT AREAS FOR LAND-BASED HARVESTING





## IMPACTS OF THE MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT ON LAND-BASED HARVESTING

ጎዳናን የኢትዮጵያ ፌዴራላዊ ዲሞክራሲያዊ ሪፐብሊክ ስርዓተ ሥርዓት ስር ወጥቶ ለሕግ ምክር ቤት ማቅረብ አለበት፡፡  
 ስለዚህም ለሕግ ምክር ቤት ማቅረብ አለበት፡፡ ለሕግ ምክር ቤት ማቅረብ አለበት፡፡

Dust from mining being carried on the wind and contaminating wildlife was another concern we heard from community members. Some people have already seen discoloured foxes and rabbits, due to the dust. This dust could be eaten by animals or humans with unknown impacts, and this has community members worried about health and safety.

A wide-angle photograph of a herd of reindeer grazing in a vast, snowy, and mountainous landscape. The reindeer are scattered across the middle ground, some standing and some grazing. The terrain is covered in a thick layer of snow, with some dark rocks visible. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

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ርእሷን ብገሮ ብሥራዊ ለርሀታዊነቷ ሚና ልሰጣለች፡፡ ለዚህም ምክንያትም ለገደባቸው ስልጣናት ለሚገኙት ሰነዶች ማረጋገጫ ማድረግ አስቸኳይ ሆኗል፡፡ ለዚህም ምክንያትም ለገደባቸው ስልጣናት ለሚገኙት ሰነዶች ማረጋገጫ ማድረግ አስቸኳይ ሆኗል፡፡

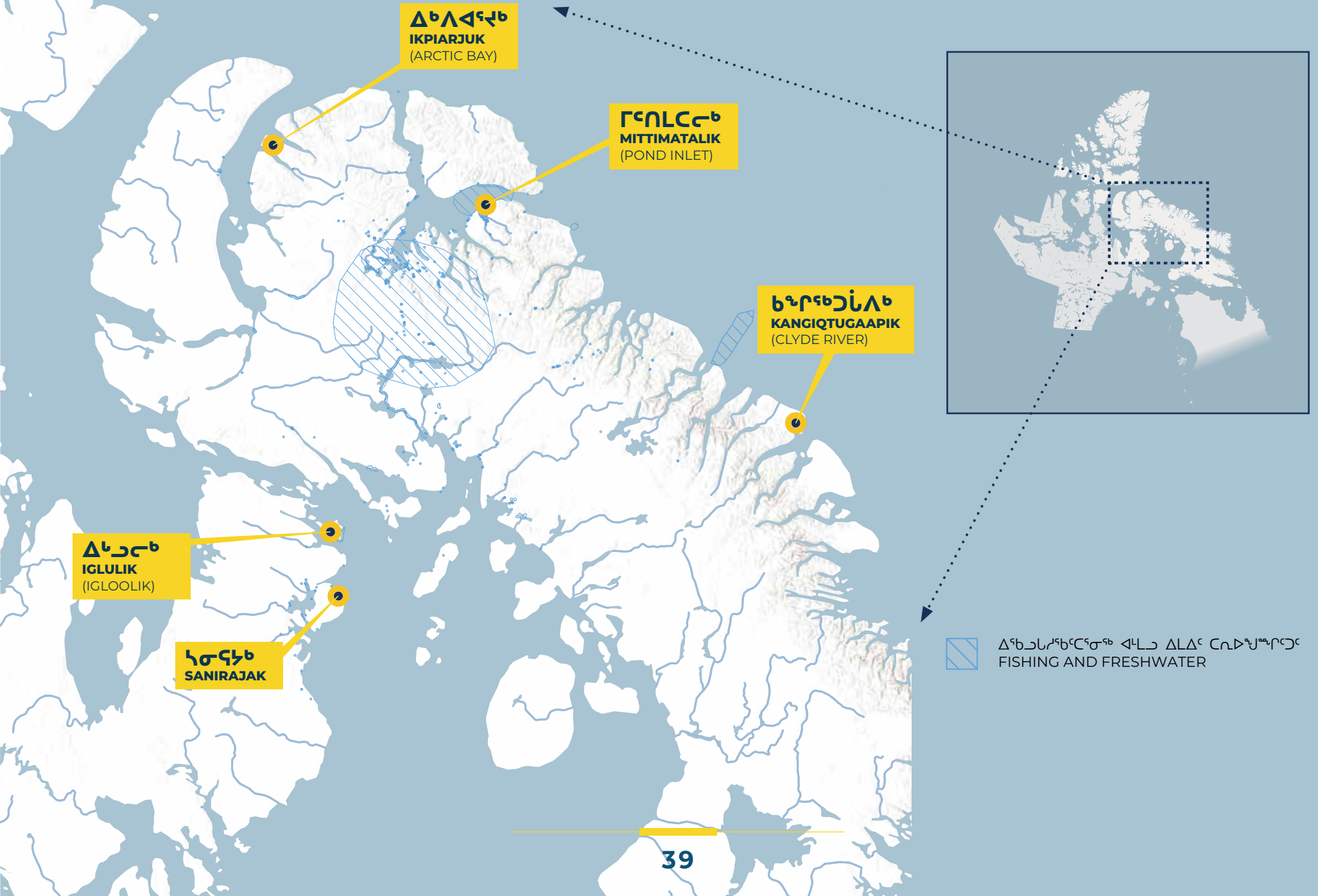
Like many other activities on-the-land and sea, fishing is very social. Community members told us about gathering in large groups to fish. And like other harvesting, fishing uses a specific set of special skills and knowledge which have been developed and learned over time. Community members explained fishing with weirs, spears, sticks, by jigging, and using gill nets. Inuit techniques for processing and preserving fish were also explained to us in detail.







## IMPORTANT AREAS FOR FISHING AND FRESH WATER





## IMPACTS OF THE MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT ON FISHING AND FRESHWATER

[illegible]

Dust from mining and transportation activities is particularly concerning. Community members explained that they do not want to drink water that is close to mining, road, and railroad infrastructure. Community members let us know that they would avoid areas contaminated by dust.

“ Ծրօնով Վճիռներով Վճի. Վճիռներով  
Լեռներով Ուժեղաց, Վճիռներով.  
Միջակայքում Ուժե ԸՆԼՆ Վճիռներով  
Վճիռ Վճիռ Վճիռներով.”

“ In wintertime we use snow. We collect  
the snow into a bowl or kettle, and melt it.  
I wouldn't want to sip tea from snow  
covered with the dust from the ore.”



## FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

[illegible]

Community members explained that country foods today are a part of tradition, and that providing these foods are a way of showing care for family. Ultimately country foods were described by many participants as an important part of their emotional, physical, spiritual, and mental health and wellbeing, as much emphasised for its value as food as for culture.

[illegible]

- the right to healthy and nutritious food
- the right to culturally appropriate food
- the right to food harvested through ecologically sound and sustainable methods as guided by the Nunavut Agreement and wildlife management regiment
- the right to access wildlife in ways that empower communities and stimulate local economies





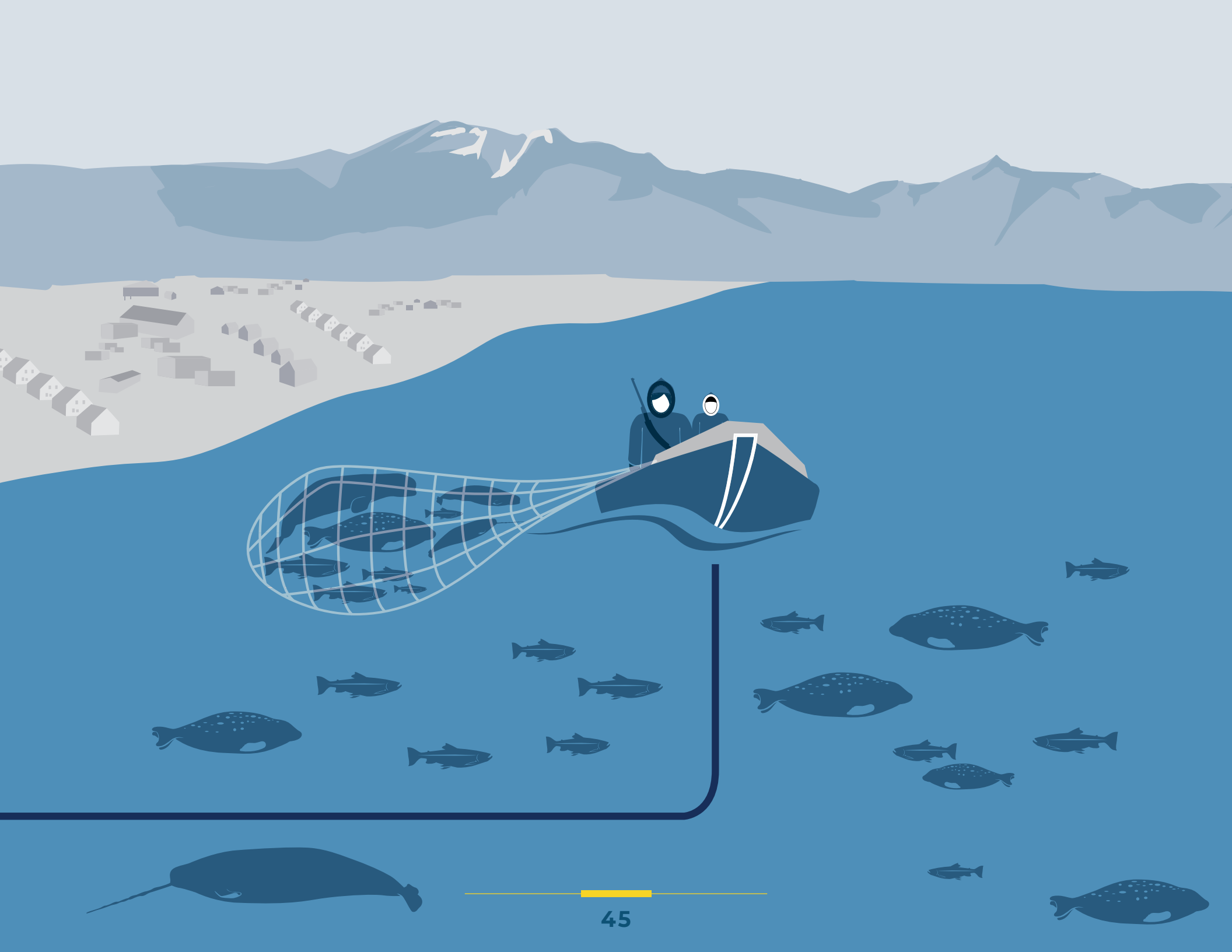


[illegible]

We learned that the preservation and caching of food is also an important way that community members manage the food supply. Drying and fermentation are used to make food last longer, so that when there is a shortage there is a reliable supply to fall back on. Sharing of food plays a similar role but is also seen as a responsibility by many.

A large group of stylized figures in winter clothing, including parkas and hats, standing on a snowy surface. The figures are arranged in several rows, with some wearing blue and others in darker blue or black. A blue arrow points to the right, indicating the direction of travel or movement.

“Mostly we give away our harvest to the people who are hungry. We ask them to come over and eat with us.”



## IMPACTS OF THE MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT ON FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

[illegible]

The impacts of insufficient country food is especially high for the most vulnerable community members, such as Elders and others who cannot hunt or harvest for themselves. For example, community members explained that if country foods are not available or are unsafe, people will have to buy their food, which can be very costly for low- and fixed-income individuals.

**“ I don’t approve of the project because I think it’s having devastating effects on wildlife and Inuit rely on feeding their families from the wildlife in the area.”**



[illegible]

In summary, country foods are seen as culturally important, affordable, healthy, and desirable by many community members, and also important for physical, emotional, and mental health. The Mary River Mine Project has the potential to reduce the overall availability of country foods and the safety of the country food supply.



## TRAVEL AND CAMP

[illegible]

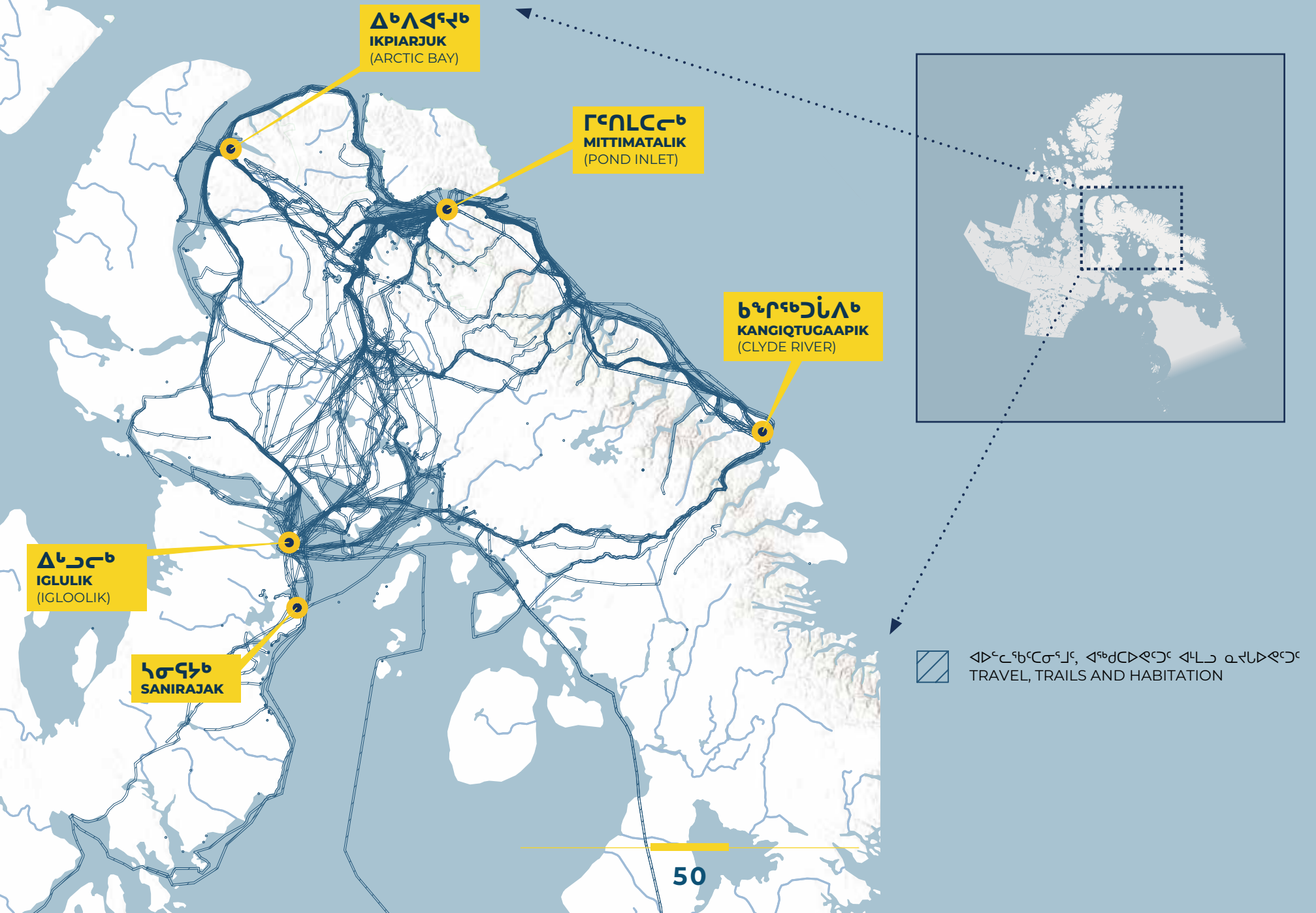
Community members emphasised that the ability to travel and camp across Baffin Island is important to their way of life and essential to their ability to hunt, fish, trap, and gather. We learned that Inuit are always watching the conditions and the seasons, which determines where people go and how they get there.

“When you are out on-the-land you are learning about the history of our land. You experience the land and learn and see new things.”





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IMPORTANT TRAVEL, TRAILS, AND HABITATION AREAS



## IMPACTS OF THE MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT ON TRAVEL AND CAMP

[illegible][illegible]

From members of each community, we heard that the Mary River Mine Project would make travel across Baffin Island (including the seascape) more difficult or impossible, with additional negative impacts to camping on-the-land, marine harvesting, land-based harvesting, and fishing.

Community members are concerned that construction of the Mary River Mine Project railways and the operation of trains will block travel, increase worries about safety, and destroy established trails. We learned that many trails are where they are because they provide access to important and valuable resources.

We also learned that some impacts are not as obvious as when a train is built across a trail. Community members explained, for example, how dust from the Mary River mine could interfere with how easily sleds can run across the snow. Camps and cabins that are connected by trails could also be disturbed, especially where they are close to Mary River Mine infrastructure, such as ports, and shipping and rail routes. Habitation sites such as these are important places for transferring knowledge; disruptions to trails and travel would impact the broader Inuit way of life on Baffin Island.

“We are opposing this railway as Hunters are very dependent on this area. We have always been dependent on this area.”

## CULTURAL CONTINUITY

[illegible]

We learned from community members that, although harvesting and hunting activities are fundamental to the Inuit way of life, there is much more to Inuit culture and the land. This includes, for example, Inuit art and technologies, archaeology and other heritage resources and values, connection to the land, and the act of teaching and learning Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

“Traditionally, people from Igloodik, Arctic Bay, and Pond Inlet used to walk and gather inland. They would gather there together. The three communities would meet near this big lake to harvest caribou. There’s a lot of Inuksuks and landmarks that mark areas where they used to go.”











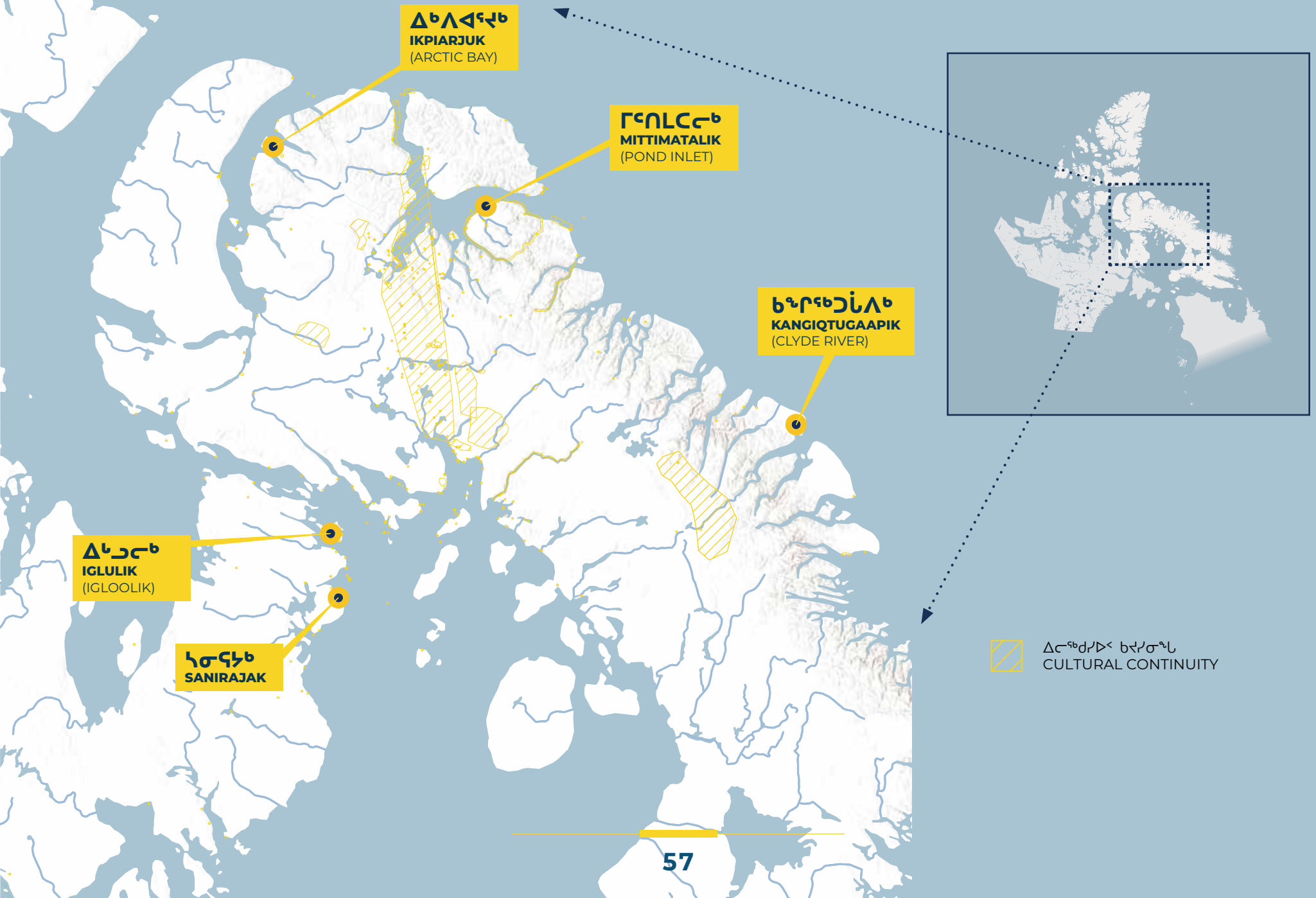






# ԱԿԼՈՍՐԻՆԻՍՏՅՈՒՆԸ ՄԵՐՈՍԻՆԻՍԻ ԵՐԿՐԱՆԵՐԸ

## IMPORTANT AREAS OF CULTURE CONTINUITY

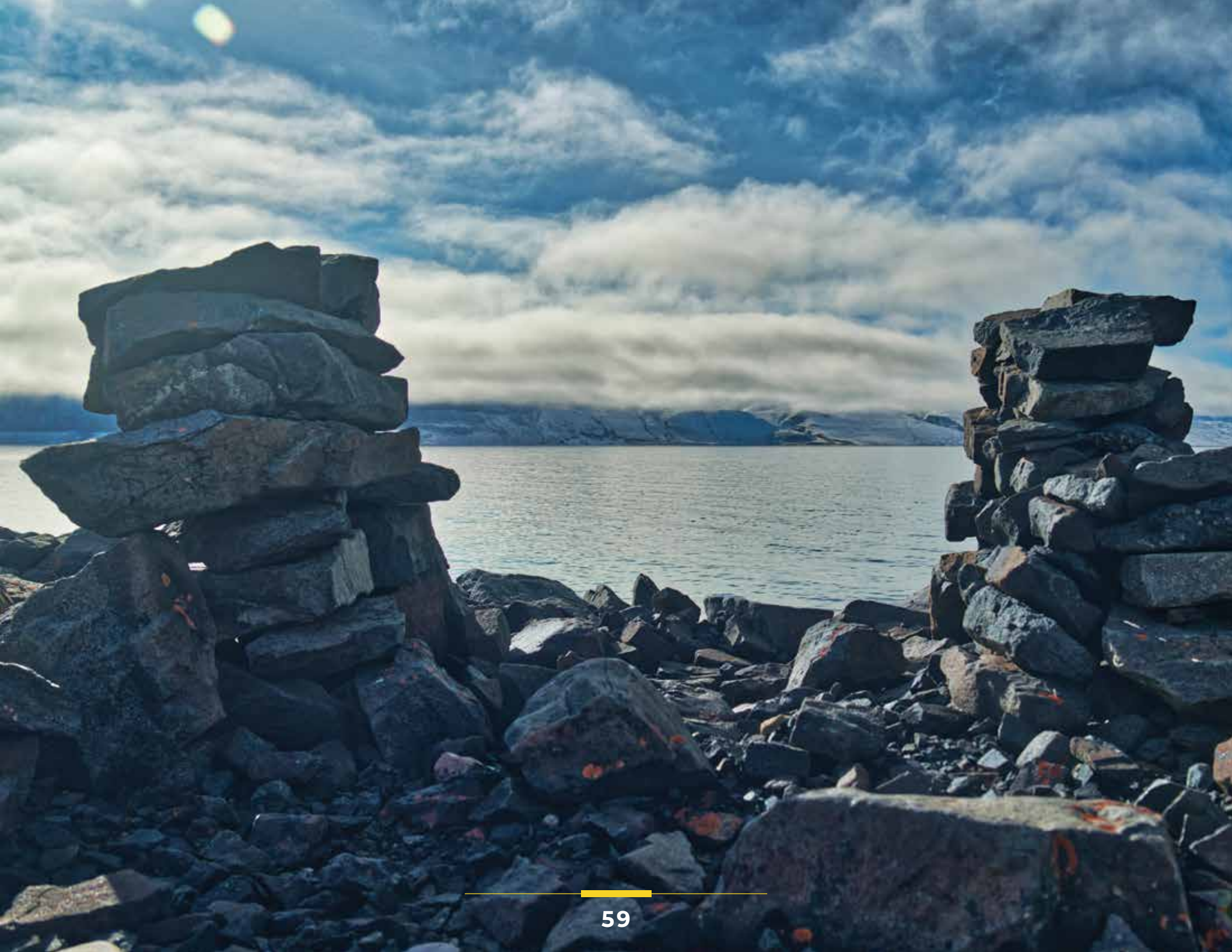


## IMPACTS OF THE MARY RIVER MINE PROJECT ON CULTURAL CONTINUITY

[illegible]

Ultimately, community members are worried that the Mary River Mine Project could disconnect people from their culture and identity.







 [info@qia.ca](mailto:info@qia.ca)

 867-975-8400

 [www.qia.ca](http://www.qia.ca)

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 Qikiqtani Inuit Assoc.  @Qikiqtani\_Inuit  @Qikiqtani\_Inuit  Qikiqtani Inuit Association

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