



Obtaining a Research License under Nunavut's Scientists Act: A Guide for Applicants

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About This Guide

This guide provides information about Nunavut’s *Scientists Act* and how to obtain and renew a license under the Act to conduct research in or about Nunavut. The guide is intended for researchers who work in the physical/natural, health, and social science research disciplines. The guide provides important updated information for license holders and new applicants, including:

- The types of scientific activities that must be licensed under the Act, and activities that are exempt from licensing
- Requirements, procedures, and timelines for obtaining new research licenses under the Act
- The NRI's process and criteria for reviewing research license applications
- Reporting obligations for NRI license holders
- How to renew multi-year research licenses
- Expectations for responsible research conduct in Nunavut
- How to appeal or contest a research licensing decision
- Other permits and authorizations required to conduct research in Nunavut
- Frequently asked questions about the licensing process

If you plan to carry out research in Nunavut and need to obtain or renew a scientific research license we strongly encourage you to review this guide completely before submitting your application. For further information on the scientific research licensing process, please contact:

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Nunavut's Scientists Act

Nunavut's *Scientists Act* is a territorial legislation that applies throughout the territory of Nunavut. The Act requires that:

“No person shall carry on scientific research in or based on Nunavut, or collect specimens in Nunavut for use in scientific research, unless: (a) he or she is the holder of a licence issued under this Act; or (b) the research consists solely of archaeological work for which a permit has been issued under the subsection 51(1) of the *Nunavut Act* (Canada).”
(R.S.N.W.T. 1988, c.S-4: 2)

The Act applies to research in the health, social, and physical/natural science disciplines (i.e., projects that involve the collection of new research information on people, air, land, or water). The Act does not apply to research on wildlife as defined under the *Nunavut Agreement*, or to the collection of specimens of wildlife as defined in the *Wildlife Act*. The Act also does not apply to archeological research.

Nunavut's *Scientists Act* is administered by Nunavut's Science Advisor, on behalf of the Minister responsible for the Act. The Science Advisor is an appointment held by a person employed in the public service. The current science advisor also serves as the Director of Innovation and Research for Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit.

Research activities licensable under the Scientists Act

Research is a very broad concept and there is no single definition of research that is shared by all who practice it. Licensable research is defined broadly as any undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation related to Nunavut's people, air, land, or water.

Licensing under the *Scientists Act* is required for most types of primary research involving the collection of new information where the intent is to produce Academic outputs in the public domain. Licensing is also required for secondary research involving the use of unpublished information already collected for a purpose other than the current research purpose. Licensable research can employ qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methodologies rooted in various research paradigms. Licensable research can include both curiosity-driven 'pure science' and applied science. The key defining feature of licensable research is that it aims to produce authoritative scientific outputs (academic theses, peer-reviewed journal articles, manuscripts, conference presentations, etc.) that are subject to some form of validation (e.g., peer review) and are made available in the public domain.

The *Scientists Act* applies to research in *or based on* Nunavut. This means that a license is required not only for research conducted within Nunavut, but for new primary or secondary research involving people, air, land, or water that is conducted remotely from outside of the



territory. For example, a project that employs remote video conferencing technology to collect data from Nunavut residents with the intent to use this information to produce research outputs would require a license under the Act.

If you are planning to conduct research in Nunavut and aren't sure whether your project meets the requirement for licensing under the *Scientists Act*, please contact the [Manager of Research Liaison](#) for clarification.

Examples of research themes and topics in various disciplines that have been licensed under the *Scientists Act* are provided below. Please consult the Nunavut Research Institute's [annual compendiums of licensed research](#) at www.nri.nu.ca and the [Isirvik Research Portal](#) (www.isirvik.ca) for other examples of research typically licensed by the NRI.

Physical/Natural Science Research Topics:

- atmospheric science
- hydrology, limnology, water quality
- paleoecology
- geology, geomorphology, soil science
- environmental engineering
- oceanography, sea ice
- glaciology

Social Science Research Topics:

- anthropology, human geography, sociology
- linguistics
- education
- political science
- law
- economics

Health Research Topics:

- epidemiology, public health
- mental health, addictions
- oncology
- nutrition
- dentistry, dermatology
- clinical studies



Research activities exempt from licensing under the *Scientists Act*


Some research activities are considered exempt from licensing when their primary aim is not the production of Academic or scholarly scientific outputs. This exemption is designed to permit activities that are routinely conducted as part of an organization's normal operations to proceed without unnecessary administrative burden. For example, internal studies, reviews, and evaluations carried out to support the design, delivery, and improvement of key programs and services are typically exempt.

Other examples of exempt activities within this category can include:

- internal program evaluations, quality assurance and quality improvement studies, audits, and needs assessments;
- feasibility studies;
- internal surveys of employees and members of an organization;
- statistical censuses and surveys administered by Statistics Canada;
- consultations, engagement and outreach with community members to establish research partnerships or collaborations prior to the actual design of the research; and
- visits to communities to disseminate research results.

There may be instances when licensing is required for projects in the above categories if the Science Advisor deems that the proposed research could result in significant harm to the natural or social environment of Nunavut. Licensing is also usually required if projects have ancillary research objectives and/or involve Academic partners who intend to use the information gathered to produce academic, peer-reviewed research outputs (theses, publications, etc.)

Other scientific activities that are typically exempt from licensing under the *Scientists Act* include:

- studies based solely on the consolidation, review, and synthesis of existing published information available in the public domain (e.g., systematic literature reviews)
- educational field schools (unless a purpose of the field school is to collect scientific information that will be made publicly available and/or used to produce academic publications in the public domain)
- adventure travel and tourism (expeditions)
- prospecting and mineral exploration regulated and licensed under the Nunavut Mining Regulations
- routine sampling/testing of water, soil, and air as required under regulatory authorizations (e.g., monitoring programs for mining waste effluent discharge)
- journalism (including radio and print media, photojournalism or  documentaries)
- opinion polls
- high school and undergraduate science and research projects (excluding some publishable honors thesis research)



*Nunavut's Science Advisor and the Minister responsible for the Scientists Act have the final authority to decide whether a research project should be licensed. If you are unsure whether your project meets the requirement for licensing or exemption, please contact the [Manager of Research Liaison](#) for clarification as soon as possible. If a project is deemed exempt from NRI licensing, it may still require a license, permit or authorization from a separate agency.

How to Apply for a Research License

To obtain a research license for a new project (one not previously licensed by the NRI) you must complete a full research application form [online](#) and submit to NRI's Manager of Research Liaison along with the required supporting documents specific to your research discipline.

Before applying, please carefully read these guidelines and review the application form in full. If you have any questions about the research licensing process, requirements, or timelines please contact the [Manager of Research Liaison](#).

The NRI's research license application form and instructions for applying are available on the NRI website at: www.nri.nu.ca. There is no fee to apply for your research license.

You may apply for your Nunavut scientific research license in two different ways.

Option one:

Complete the online application form for your research project and submit along with all required supporting documents for your research discipline(s). *The application form must be completed in one session; it cannot be saved and completed later.

- [Online application form](#)

After you've submitted your application, you will receive an automated response from NRI confirming receipt of your application.

Option two:

You may download the license application form, complete it, and then submit along with all required supporting documents directly to the Manager of Research Liaison.

- [Fillable/Printable PDF Research License Application Form](#)

Before completing this application form, please carefully review the following documents:

- *National Inuit Strategy on Research (2018)* available at: <https://www.itk.ca/projects/national-inuit-strategy-on-research/>
- *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans – TCPS 2 (2018)* available at: https://ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html
- *Health Research in Nunavut: Special Considerations for Remote Data Collection (2020)* available at: <https://www.nri.nu.ca/health-research-nunavut-special-considerations-remote-data-collection>

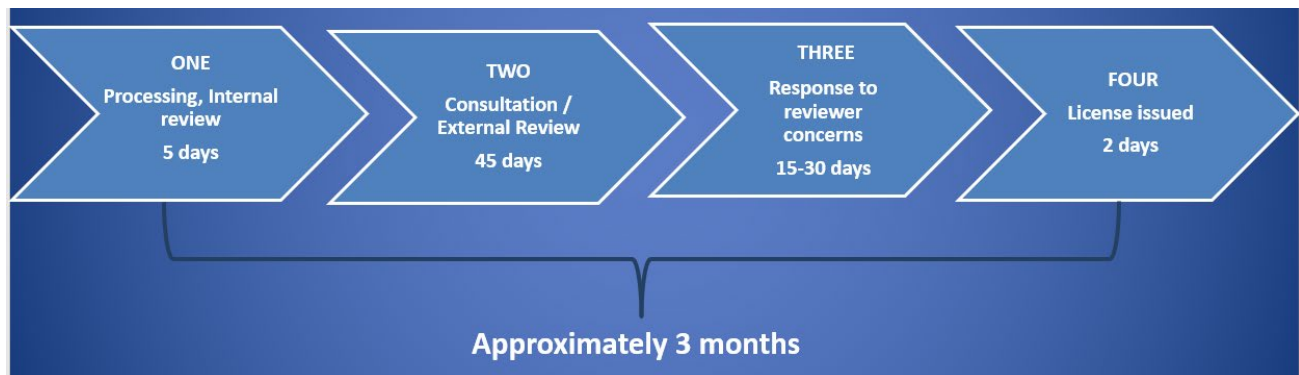


Review Process and Timelines for License Applications

As soon as the NRI receives your completed application package, we will start our internal review of your project. We will advise you if any additional information is required; and we will determine whether your project requires a full review or qualifies for an expedited review.

The review process involves external consultation (requiring a minimum of 45 business days) with community agencies, Inuit organizations, government departments, and any other representative groups that may be impacted by, or have a strong interest in, the proposed research.

License Application review Timeline (approximate)



The consultation process can only begin once we have received the completed application form along with all required supporting documents (e.g., translated project summary, institutional ethics approval, and translated consent forms).

During the formal consultation process, local agencies will have the opportunity to raise questions and express concerns about your research. These agencies may recommend approval or rejection of your application and are also asked to suggest measures to mitigate potential impacts and promote meaningful local engagement.

Feedback from the consultation process is shared directly with the applicant, and you will have an opportunity to respond as appropriate. You may be required to modify your research project—such as adjusting methods, locations, or the timing of fieldwork—to address concerns and avoid negative impacts identified during consultation. If necessary, the Science Advisor may extend the review period to allow additional time to resolve outstanding issues.

Terms and conditions may be attached to a research license to ensure the research is conducted ethically and respectfully, and in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Under the *Scientists Act*, the Science Advisor has up to one year from the date the license application is received to issue a license.



When reviewing applications the Science Advisor is required to determine whether proposed research “could be injurious to or unduly interfere with the natural or social environment of Nunavut”. The potential for research to cause harm is determined through:

- 1) an internal NRI review to assess the merit/quality, feasibility, safety, and ethical integrity of the proposed research by examining factors including:
 - The competence, training, and professional experience of the applicant and team members;
 - Whether the research team has sufficient resources to successfully and safely undertake the project;
 - The scientific and scholarly merit of the proposed research (including validity, feasibility, and appropriateness of research methodology) according to the research discipline(s);
 - Whether appropriate measures are in place to protect Nunavut residents and the environment from potential harms (including proof of Institutional Research Ethics Board approval for University-affiliated applicants);
 - Whether the applicant has obtained or applied for other regulatory approvals needed for the proposed study, especially land use authorizations needed to access research field sites;
 - Whether Nunavut residents and organizations have been appropriately consulted and engaged, and whether Inuit knowledge and societal values have been considered in developing the research project;
 - The extent of local involvement proposed by the research team, including provisions for local training, employment, compensation, capacity building, and other direct and indirect benefits to Nunavut;
 - Prior conduct of the applicant, including any documented instances of research misconduct and/or noncompliance with regulatory and reporting requirements; and
 - The quality of proposed plans to disseminate research results and findings to Nunavut communities and other organizations involved in or potentially impacted by the research.
- 2) Consultation with community groups, Inuit organizations, government departments, key individuals, and any other representative groups that may be impacted by or have a direct interest in a proposed research project.

The consultation process ensures that organizations representing Nunavummiut are fully aware of your research plans and have an opportunity to seek clarification, identify concerns, and offer suggestions related to your project. Consulted agencies may recommend approval or rejection of your research to the NRI, and they may also recommend terms and conditions for your license.

The organizations consulted in the review of an application varies according to the nature and topic(s) of the research. Examples of the agencies most often consulted include:

- Municipal Councils
- Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs)
- District Education Authorities (DEAs)



- Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs)
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI)
- Government of Nunavut Departments
- Charities and non-profit groups (e.g., community research committees)

The research methods, study location, project regulatory requirements, and the scope of potential impacts are carefully considered in determining which agencies will be consulted for each license application review.

Consulted agencies receive copies of the full research license application and supporting information, along with a reviewer recommendation form to provide feedback to NRI within 45 days.

*Remember the NRI is not able to start the consultation process for your research license application until we receive the completed application forms and *all* required supporting documents (e.g., translated project summary, institutional ethics approval, and translated consent forms).

Engaging Directly with Nunavut Organizations in the Licensing Process

At any time before submitting your license application—or while your application is under review—you are encouraged to independently engage with local and regional agencies and/or community members to present and discuss your research plans. Where appropriate, you may also seek letters of support and begin building research relationships.

You are permitted to travel to Nunavut without a research license for the purpose of meeting informally with community members, gathering feedback on your research plans, or conducting consultations, workshops, or other engagement activities aimed at co-designing your research proposal and project.

As with research participants, it is considered best practice to compensate individuals or groups who participate in engagement activities. If your project involves close collaboration with community residents, it is essential that you meet with local authorities and community partners well in advance of submitting your license application. These meetings should be used to finalize your engagement plan and ensure your research aligns with local expectations and codes of practice.

Please include with your application any written documentation you receive from community agencies that express support for—or interest in—your research.

Multi-Year License Approvals and Renewals



You may apply for a multi-year license for your project, covering up to three consecutive calendar years. While multi-year licenses must be renewed annually, you are not required to submit a full research application each year. You must however, submit your [Annual Summary Report](#) (before December 31) and [Request to Renew a Multiyear License](#) either before December 31st of each research year, or 120 days prior to the start of a new field season.

A new research license application is required to continue multi-year research once the initial three-year period has ended. Additionally, a full new application may be required at any point within the first three years if significant changes to your project increase the potential for harm or disruption. Such changes may include substantial modifications to the project scope, such as field team size and composition, research objectives, study methodology, or the location, timing, and duration of fieldwork.

Research licenses may be revoked, altered, or suspended for any of the following reasons:

- The researcher violates any provision of the *Scientists Act* or its accompanying regulations;
- The researcher fails to submit an Annual Summary Report;
- The researcher breaches any term or condition of the license;
- The researcher fails to obtain or renew any regulatory authorization(s) required for the continuation of the project; or
- The research activities are causing harm or disruption to Nunavut residents or the environment.



Reporting Requirements for License Holders

Scientific research license holders must submit an [*Annual Summary Report*](#) to the Manager of Research Liaison, **within** six months of the expiry of a license or upon request for license renewal, whichever comes first. You must satisfy the annual reporting requirements for any active NRI license before you renew the license for another year and/or obtain another research license for a different project.

If you plan to undertake research in Nunavut during the peak research field season (from May 01 to September 31) in the next calendar year, submit your annual summary report along with your new application or license renewal request to the NRI before December 31 in the current calendar year. For research taking place at any other time of the year, submit your renewal request 120 days prior to the date on which you intend to commence field research.

The [*Annual Summary Report*](#) is required even if you were unable to complete licensed research activities. Multi-year license holders are also required to submit [*Annual Summary Reports*](#) each year over the approved term of the multi-year project. You are also required to send NRI copies of any final publications or reports (e.g., scientific journal articles, academic theses, etc.) that you generate based on your research.

In addition to submitting an Annual Summary Report to the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI), you are expected to share your research results directly with Nunavut agencies and community members—particularly with the individuals and groups who participated in your research. To support this, you should develop a communication plan that identifies your target audiences and outlines the methods you will use to share your research findings, including preliminary results and project status updates.

We also encourage you to plan for return visits to the community throughout the course of your research and to involve community members in reviewing, interpreting, and validating your findings. When communicating your results, it is essential to protect the confidentiality and anonymity of individual participants and to safeguard any sensitive information.

Your communication methods may include newsletters, posters, fact sheets, radio interviews, social media, videos, podcasts, or in-person presentations. The most appropriate combination of methods will depend on the characteristics of your intended audience, such as age, background, language, and communication preferences.

NRI is available to provide guidance in identifying effective communication and outreach strategies to help you share your research in meaningful and accessible ways.

Research communication efforts must respect and protect the anonymity and confidentiality of research participants as outlined in the informed consent agreements for your project. Health



researchers are also obliged to consult with Nunavut's Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) before making public any research findings that identify a human health risk (to individuals, or communities) associated with diet, environmental exposure, or lifestyle. If research results indicate a potentially significant health risk, the CMOH may deem it necessary to engage Health Canada to conduct a formal Human Health Risk Assessment, which generally takes 6 months to complete.



Working Responsibly in Nunavut: Understanding the limitations of your research license

In addition to holding a Nunavut research license, license holders are expected to follow the principles outlined in the National Inuit Strategy on Research and Chapter 9 (Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada) of the Second Edition of the Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS2).

Your Nunavut Scientific Research License confirms that the NRI deems your project to meet our expectations for ethical, safe and responsible research. As a license holder you are responsible for upholding high standards of conduct at all times when doing research in Nunavut.

Undertaking research without a license or breaching the terms and conditions of your existing license are serious offences punishable by a fine and/or jail time. The Science Advisor has the power to revoke or suspend a research license at any time when valid concerns are expressed about the conduct of a licensed researcher. In addition to following all relevant guidelines for responsible research and adhering to the terms and conditions of your license, please also note the following:

- Your research license authorizes you to conduct the specific research field activities detailed in your research application and described on your license. Please do not conduct opportunistic research activities that fall outside the scope of your license. If you are licensed, for instance, to collect water samples for a limnology study you should not collect rock or soil samples opportunistically for a colleague for use in an unrelated project.
- Unless authorized under your license, you may not share research samples or specimens that you collect with other investigators for research purposes that are outside the scope of your original licensed project. A license amendment or new research license must be obtained for any secondary research or analysis of archived samples and specimens that were collected for other research purposes.
- Do not collect video footage of wildlife or people without first notifying the Nunavut Film Development Corporation. Video documentation of wildlife may also require permission from the Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment.

Other Authorizations and Licenses Required for Research in Nunavut

Remember, the *Scientists Act* does not apply to all research in Nunavut. However, research activities that are exempt from licensing under the *Scientists Act* may need to be licensed under other laws and regulations as described below:

Wildlife Research License issued by the Nunavut Department of Environment, under the *Nunavut Wildlife Act*, is required for studies of terrestrial wildlife (including plants, insects, and animals), polar bears, and birds. For more information contact:

Wildlife Research Section
Department of Environment
Box 209, Igloolik, NU, X0A 0L0
Phone: (867) 934-2178
Email: wildlife_research@gov.nu.ca

License to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), under the federal *Fisheries Act*, is needed for studies of marine/freshwater mammals, fish, invertebrates and fish habitat (including aquatic plants). For more information contact:

DFO Area Licensing Administrator for Nunavut
Phone: (867) 979-8005
E-mail: DFO.ArcticLicensing-PermisArctique.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Species at Risk Act (SARA) Research License for any research involving a wildlife species listed in the Species at Risk Act (SARA). For more information contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region (for terrestrial species)
Email: permisnordlepsarapermittingnorth@ec.gc.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (for aquatic species)
Email: fisheriesprotection@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Archaeology and Paleontology Permit issued by the Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage under the Archaeological Sites Regulations of the *Nunavut Act*. For more information contact:

Territorial Archaeologist
Department of Culture and Heritage
Box 310, Igloolik, NU, X0A 0L0
Phone (867) 975-2046
E-mail: CHpermits@gov.nu.ca

Parks Canada Research and Collection Permit for any research activities taking place in a national park, issued by Parks Canada under the *National Parks Act*. For more information contact:

Parks Canada, Nunavut Field Unit
Email: rechercheparcsnunavut-nunavutparksresearch@pc.gc.ca

Territorial Parks Permit for any research activities taking place in a territorial park, issued by the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment under the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Territorial Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area. For more information contact:

Department of Environment
Nunavut Parks and Special Places
Email: parks@gov.nu.ca

Scientific Permit for any research activities involving any migratory birds, issued by the Canadian Wildlife Service under sections 4 and 19 of the Migratory Bird Regulations C.R.C. c. 1035 made pursuant to section 12 of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. For more information contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region
Email: CWSPermitNorth-PermisNordSCF@ec.gc.ca

Migratory Bird Sanctuary Permit for any research activities in a Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Nunavut, issued by the Canadian Wildlife Service under section 9 of the Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations, C.R.C., c. 1036 made pursuant to section 12 of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. For more information contact:


Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region
Email: CWSPermitNorth-PermisNordSCF@ec.gc.ca

National Wildlife Area Permit for any research activities in a National Wildlife Area in Nunavut, issued by the Canadian Wildlife Service under section 4 of the Wildlife Areas Regulations, C.R.C., c. 1609 made pursuant to section 12 of the *Canada Wildlife Act*. For more information contact:

Canadian Wildlife Service, Northern Region
Email: CWSPermitNorth-PermisNordSCF@ec.gc.ca

Multi-disciplinary research projects may require more than one research license from different licensing agencies. For example, if you are conducting a study on terrestrial mammals which includes an Inuit knowledge research component, you will require both a **Nunavut wildlife research permit** and a **Nunavut scientific research license**.

In addition to the licenses described above, other regulatory authorizations may be required for research activities that involve fieldwork. These requirements are determined by the methodology, location, and scope of field activities and may include:

- Review by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) to assess potential cumulative impacts and determine whether the project conforms to a regional land use plan. **This is required for ALL new land- and water-based research in Nunavut. For more information, contact:**  logue@nunavut.ca;

- Environmental impact screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB). **This is required for ALL new land- and water-based research in Nunavut that is subject to licensing under the Scientists Act.** For more information, contact: info@nirb.ca;
- Land use permit from CIRNAC for projects on Federal Crown Lands that exceed 100 person days of fieldwork. CIRNAC must also be notified if you plan to cache fuel on Crown Land. For more information, contact: landsmining@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca;
- Permission from a Regional Inuit Association (RIA) to access or use Inuit Owned Lands for any purposes;
- Municipal development permit to build or install permanent research infrastructure on municipal lands in a Nunavut community; and
- Authorization issued by the Nunavut Water Board to collect water samples or use potable water for a research camp.

You are responsible for identifying and obtaining all the permits and regulatory authorizations required for your research. Please contact each agency to confirm their application procedures, requirements, and timelines. Certain authorizations such as the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) conformity screening and Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) screening must be completed **before** your NRI research license(s) may be issued. **The NPC is the first point of entry into Nunavut's regulatory system for land- and water-based research and has the authority to exempt low-impact proposals from NIRB screening.**

Frequently asked questions about Scientific Research Licensing

Is it possible to obtain my research license before the NRI's 45-day consultation period is complete?

The agencies consulted by NRI are given 45 business days to complete their review of research license applications forwarded to them by NRI. License approval before the 45-day review period has expired is possible if the NRI receives assurance from the consulted agencies that the research proposed will not result in harm or disruption. Licenses may also be issued during the review period if applicants provide letters from local authorities and/or community collaborators confirming support for the proposed research. New land and water based research must undergo review by the Nunavut Planning Commission and complete screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board before NRI may issue a research license. Social science and health research applicants must also provide confirmation of Research Ethics Board approval for their projects before a license may be issued.

How does the NRI decide which organizations in Nunavut to consult with when my application is reviewed?

The NRI Manager of Research Liaison and Nunavut Science Advisor review each research license application to identify the key agencies that will be directly impacted by or engaged in the research proposed, or that have a vested interest in the research outcomes. The specific agencies consulted varies for each application and is determined by the research discipline, study methods, scope, and location of the research. Examples of the agencies most often consulted include:

- Municipal Councils;
- Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs);
- District Education Authorities (DEAs);
- Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs);
- Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI);
- Institutions of Public Government (IPGs);
- Government of Nunavut Departments and Agencies; and
- Community Interest Groups (e.g., community research organizations).

Consulted agencies receive copies of your full application form and supporting documents along with a reviewer recommendation form for them to provide feedback to the NRI.

Can I apply for my Scientific Research License while my project is still under review by the Nunavut Planning Commission or Nunavut Impact Review Board?

Yes, if you are proposing a new research project that is subject to review by the NPC, you are encouraged to submit a full [NRI research license application](#) while your project proposal is under review by the NPC or NIRB. The NRI will not be able to issue your license until the NPC and NIRB reviews are complete; however, we can start processing your application while the NIRB and NPC processes are underway; this will allow for a faster licensing decision upon issuance of the NIRB screening decision for your project.

What do I do if part of my project is in Nunavut and part is in another jurisdiction such as the Northwest Territories, or Nunavik Marine Region?

Nunavut's Scientists Act applies only to research conducted within the Territory of Nunavut, including Territorial waters (seaward up to 12 nautical miles). Research conducted in the Northwest Territories is subject to the Northwest Territories Scientists Act administered by the [Government](#) of the Northwest Territories. Research in the NWT may also be subject to other regulatory requirements.

Research conducted on Nunavut territorial lands and waters in the Nunavik Marine Region must be reviewed by the Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission and screened by the Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board before Research proponents planning transboundary research activities that involve fieldwork in multiple jurisdictions are required to identify and obtain all regulatory approvals and licenses for their projects.

What if my project is taking place entirely in Nunavut but is multi-disciplinary? For example: my research involves collecting benthic invertebrates as well as documenting Inuit knowledge about freshwater ecology.

If your project is multi-disciplinary, you will require research licenses from multiple agencies. For the example above, a license to fish for scientific purposes from DFO is required for the invertebrate sampling AND a scientific research license from NRI is needed for the Inuit knowledge component. The project would also need to be reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission. The [Manager of Research Liaison](#) can help to identify all the necessary permits and authorizations you need to undertake your research.

Can I make changes to my research field locations after I have submitted my research license application and/or have already received my license?

If you wish to make changes to field locations for a research application currently under review, notify the [Manager of Research Liaison](#) immediately. Changes in field locations may also require a new review of your project by the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or a new screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. If you wish to add new locations to a research license you must request an amendment to your license. License amendments will require approval of the communities nearest to the proposed field locations.

If you have identified several candidate locations for fieldwork but have not yet selected the final locations, please include **all candidate locations** in your license application even if you don't anticipate being able to conduct activities at all locations. It is much easier to remove authorized field locations from your license than it is to add new ones.

Can I make changes to my project after it is Licensed?

It is possible to make changes to your license if you submit a written request for a license amendment.

License amendment requests should be directed to the [Manager of Research Liaison](#) as soon as possible and should detail exactly what changes are needed to the research license and why. License amendments may require further community consultation and may also require a new review of your project by the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or a new screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board.

What happens if I apply to conduct research in partnership with multiple communities and one or more community is supportive of the project while others do not wish to participate?

You will receive a license to proceed with research activities only in the communities that have expressed support for the project.

What should I do if I decide after receiving my license that I must cancel my project?

Notify the Manager of Research Liaison immediately if you intend to cancel your project. You must also immediately notify any other local groups and individuals that you have recruited and/or hired to support your research (translators, hotels, interpreters, outfitters, participants, etc.)

Am I still required to submit an annual summary report to renew a multiyear license for a new year if I was unable to complete any research activities in the current year?

Yes, if you were unable to complete your licensed research activities as planned, you still must provide a translated annual summary report to the NRI explaining the reasons for cancelling or deferring your research activities. The NRI must receive your completed annual summary and renewal request report before we are able to renew a multi-year research license for a new year or issue you a new license for a different project.

How long will it take the NRI to renew my multi-year research license for a new year after I submit my annual summary report and license renewal request?

The NRI requires a minimum of 14 business days to renew your multi-year license after we receive your translated annual summary report and multiyear license renewal request. Remember: if you make significant changes to your research project (e.g., if you change your research methods or addition of new research communities/locations), you may be required to submit a new full application.

Can I receive a license to conduct social sciences research in Nunavut if my project has not been reviewed by an Institutional Research Ethics Board?

Yes, if your research project is deemed by the NRI to pose minimal risk to Nunavummiut, you are still able to obtain a license to conduct social sciences research in Nunavut if you do not have access to an Institutional Research Ethics Board (REB) to review your research proposal. Before receiving a license, you will be required to demonstrate ethical research competence by completing a training program in research ethics, such as the Canadian Tri Council Course on Research Ethics ([TCPS CORE](#)). You must also clearly outline the measures that you will take to protect Nunavummiut from harm resulting from their involvement in your project.