

2 Summary of Key Findings

For each of the four working sessions, the results of each of three concurrent groups are summarized below as presented to the plenary session. Note that not all the questions indicated for each session were discussed by all of the groups. For each of the discussion topics, a summary of the worksheet responses is also included.

2.1 Working Session 1: Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program - Proposed Framework

In Working Session 1, the groups addressed the following questions/issues:

- The membership and mandate of the suggested Interim Coordinating Committee (ICC)³
- The proposed membership of the Responsible Authority (RA)
- Should there be a concentrated or decentralized approach to the operation of the RA?
- The operational aspects of the RA.
- The proposed approach to the RA with respect to regional and community involvement
- The proposed monitoring and reporting activities of the RA.

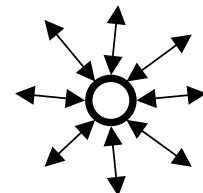
2.1.1 Group A

Proposed Interim Coordinating Committee (ICC):

- People are not comfortable with the idea of the Responsible Authority (RA), let alone a new body and new concept such as the ICC.
- Why change the Working Group concept – how would ICC be different?
- “ICC advise” can mean different things – will the Minister be held accountable if the advice is not taken?
- This type of organization will slow down the process. Instead, deal directly with the co-management Boards.
- There is a trade-off between full representation of all parties and a workable group size.
- People need clearer understanding of what the RA will do before knowing who should be at the table.
- What are the implications for involvement of the Inuvialuit and the areas of the Mackenzie Valley currently negotiating land claims and self-government?

Whether the approach to the RA should be concentrated to decentralized:

- Suggestion of a spider-like structural approach, with feedback both ways.
- Renewable Resource Councils’ government researchers can provide advice to the “centre”, but it should also flow the other way.
- Need planning for consultations. Will this happen?



Operational aspects of the Responsible Authority:

- Some research is needed, but not funded.
- Community research is a new approach, and is cost-effective.
- Community research may not address all needs.

³ It was noted at the workshop that there are already several groups in the North that have the acronym ICC (e.g., Inuit Circumpolar Conference). If such a group were to be organized for the CIMP and Audit, the name would need adjustment to limit any potential confusion.

- How to find a balance between high-tech/science and community needs and interests?
- Monitoring needs long-term commitment (at least 4 years!).
- How do the two project-specific agencies – the Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency (IEMA) and the Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board (EMAB) - fit in?

2.1.2 Group B

Proposed Interim Coordinating Committee (ICC):

- Why not simply keep the Minister as the Responsible Authority (RA)?
- ICC model could dilute existing structures. The reality is that there is overloading on the same individuals with membership duties. Instead, go directly to the RA.

Whether the approach to the RA should be concentrated to decentralized:

- Board of Boards model could isolate the agencies and “government”. ‘Board of Boards’ model (at present) does not include Aboriginal regional organizations.
- Position the organization for evolution to community representation (partnership model).
- Build on principles of “true co-management”.
- There needs to be a regional approach and a coordinated model.
- Clarity is needed on land claim requirements versus broader policy objectives.

Proposed membership of the Responsible Authority (RA):

- How to ensure Inuvialuit participation, given that MVRMA and land claim requirements technically do not include the ISR?
- The CIMP Working Group is a starting point for the RA.
- Missing from the Working Group are the Environmental Impact Screening (EISC) Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) for the ISR, and the project-specific environmental monitoring agencies.
- Where do communities fit directly in the process?

Operational aspects of the Responsible Authority (RA):

- How will information from monitoring be used, especially in decision-making?
- Can the RA “over rule” the existing co-management and regulatory boards? The RA is not intended to be a “regulatory” body.
- There is a need to clarify the decision-making process.

2.1.3 Group C



Proposed Interim Coordinating Committee (ICC):

- How does the ICC differ from the current Working Group?
- Both the ICC and the RA can start from the Working Group structure
- Other groups can participate on an as-needed basis.
- The Mackenzie Valley co-management boards need to be included.

Proposed membership of the Responsible Authority (RA):

- The co-management boards should be included.
- There needs to be buy-in to the MVRMA. The Akaitcho, for example, are distancing themselves from the CIMP process, due to their ongoing land claim negotiation process.
- Representatives on the RA need to have support from the communities.
- Renewable Resource Councils (RRC) and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB) should be members of the RA.
- It is important that Aboriginal people participate from the outset.

Whether the approach to the RA should be concentrated to decentralized:

- It is problematic that the Minister has the ultimate decision making power: What is the worth of the RA's recommendations?
- There needs to be a balance between the political and regional representation on the RA and "the work that needs doing" that is, to ensure that land use planning, environmental assessments (EAs), etc, deal with cumulative effects.
- In order to have an NWT-wide program, one of the Mackenzie Valley Boards cannot be the RA. This would also raise questions of "which Board?"
- An NWT-wide Board is not desirable. There is a need for regional representation.
- The RA should establish regional committees and sub-committees.
- The Nunavut General Monitoring Program (NGMP) under the Nunavut Claim should be explored as a model.
- Recommended that the next step of the Working Group should be to develop an "options paper" on the various structural approaches to the RA.

2.1.4 Worksheet Responses (Questions 1.1- 1.4)

- It was generally indicated that the idea of an ICC is not supported. The Working Group should continue its current work, while possibilities for additional member organizations and options for the future structure of the Responsible Authority should be further explored.
- The inclusion of the following organizations as members of the future RA was suggested:
 - Land and Water Boards/ Co-management boards
 - The Federal and Territorial governments
 - Non-government Organizations (NGOs)
 - Continued inclusion of the Inuvialuit, in particular the EISC and EIRB
 - One representative from each region (from all treaty/claimant groups)
 - One respondent suggested that members be included that would represent socio-economic and bio-physical aspects, in the form of "Regional Community and Technical CIM Committees"
- Most (but not all) respondents indicated a preference for a decentralized and regionally-based structure for the RA. Several suggested that a small steering committee be established to work with the Secretariat, and that most coordination should happen through a chair and Secretariat. A couple of respondents suggested that regional groups be established which would meet more frequently than the Steering Committee of the RA. Regional representatives would bring information and concerns to the RA Steering Committee.
- It was recommended that the CIMP Working Group present options for alternative structures for the RA that can be reviewed by various parties.
- It was suggested by several respondents that the RA needs regional representation, as well as a strong connection to the communities.
- Several respondents noted that the issues of capacity building and continuous regional and community involvement need to be further developed in the draft Implementation Framework and the Strategic Plan/Work Program. Opportunities should be explored as to how existing community groups may contribute to the CIMP in greater detail.

- One suggestion was that the monitoring plans should include lists of groups expected to be contacted or consulted. These should then be identified in the monitoring reports. Variance between the two should be discussed and explained.

2.2 Working Session 2: Environmental Audit and Auditor – Proposed Framework

In Working Session 2, the groups addressed the following questions/issues:

- *The proposed process for appointment of the Auditor and fixing the Terms of Reference (ToR)*
- *The suggested content/scope of the ToR*
- *The power and duties of the Auditor*
- *The involvement of various parties in the Audit*
- *The focus of the initial Audit*

2.2.1 Group A

Scope and focus of the first Audit

- The first Audit will “set the stage” for subsequent audits.
- State “who is doing what”.
- Focus on the State-of-the-Environment - what do we know?
- Include the following:
 - recommendations on arising cumulative effects issues;
 - what indicators need to be monitored;
 - means for determining significance; and
 - recommendations on how to standardize methodologies.
- Examine:
 - the process for how Boards are set up, including their mandates and funding needs;
 - how enforcement and inspection is conducted;
 - the link between CIM and license and permit requirements;
 - whether community-based meetings have been of benefit to CIMP; and
 - the Inuvialuit regulatory system and what role the Inuvialuit should play.



Involvement of various parties in the Audit

- “What if the Auditor got it wrong?” – don’t necessarily want the audit findings to be binding.
- DIAND has conducted a number of audits, for example on contaminated sites. These provide some experience to learn from
- The Commission for Environmental Sustainable Development (CESD) – part of the federal Auditor

General's office – is an option that could be examined.

2.2.2 Group B

Scope and focus of the first Audit

- Evaluate the effectiveness of land and water uses.
- Caribou and other wildlife – trends.
- Availability and management of information, and identification of existing monitoring gaps.
- Identification of community priorities for monitoring.
- Establish baseline or inventory for use in future audits.
- Look at the types of decisions required and whether the data (reliability) is available for decision makers.

Involvement of various parties in the Audit

- There is a need to prepare the communities for the demands that may be placed upon them with regards to their involvement in the CIMP and the Audit. Information on previous work and studies needs to be shared. Therefore, there is also a need to establish a communications or consultation process.
- Make use of specialized teams to help address specific areas or species.
- Elders can play an advisory and/or information providing roles.

2.2.3 Group C

Scope and focus of the first Audit

- Most important to focus on the regulatory aspects of CIM.
- Clarify the capacity of various agencies to fulfill their mandates, including DIAND (inspection and enforcement), RWED, Environment Canada, and co-management boards.
- Examine whether adequate mechanisms are in place for the public to raise concerns (e.g. the use and jurisdiction of public registries to track public issues and responses).
- Establish benchmarks against which to measure trends.
- Establish benchmarks to monitor biodiversity.

Involvement of various parties in the Audit

- There is a need for clarification and understanding about how audit processes are done elsewhere.
- A panel or advisory group of people with particular expertise can be set up, for the purpose of verifying factual aspects of the audit and advising the auditor during the course of the audit. Examine other audits that have used this approach in the past.
- Co-management boards should have the opportunity to review and comment on the Auditor's report.

2.2.4 Worksheet Responses (Questions 2.1 – 2.4)

- Regarding the Terms of Reference for the audit, it was suggested that these be developed in consultation with the Minister of DIAND, in the context of the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management (CEAM) Framework. It was also suggested that the Department of the Environment (DOE) should be consulted in the development of the ToR.
- Several respondents suggested that the Auditor General of Canada should be the Auditor.

- Regarding the powers and duties of the Auditor, the following three principles of the Auditor were reflected in many of the responses:
 - “Be independent”,
 - “Let the auditor audit”, and
 - “Make public the auditor’s report”
- Several respondents asked, “who audits the auditor?”
- Regarding involvement of various parties in the Audit process, respondents noted that all stakeholders should be contacted and provide information and/or review, including the GNWT, First Nations, DIAND, and Land and Water Boards.
- A comment was made that there must be recognition of the fact that some First Nations may not have the capacity to provide written submissions.
- Contrasting opinions were expressed with regards to the need for public review of the interim audit report. One respondent felt that such review and consultation would risk compromising the independence of the auditor, and that it should be the role of the RA to determine the use of the audit report in subsequent monitoring plans. Others expressed that organizations reviewed in the interim audit report should have the opportunity to respond to the report and to make suggestions for any necessary corrections. The auditor would then determine whether any requests for changes would be warranted.
- Regarding the focus of the initial audit, the following suggestions were provided:
 - establish baseline conditions for subsequent audits;
 - focus on caribou and other wildlife;
 - examine the regulatory regime and the capacity of regulatory agencies to fulfill their mandates;
 - examine the availability, reliability and usefulness of data (bio-physical and socio-economic) in terms of supporting the types of decisions that agencies need to make; and
 - examine whether the RA has fulfilled its obligations.
- It was noted that the evaluation of the use and/or effectiveness of Traditional Knowledge would best be carried out by the communities (elders). For this purpose, the Auditor may need to consult closely with the communities, perhaps through community groups established for this purpose.

2.3 Working Session 3: Feedback on the VEC Team Activities

In Working Session 3, the groups addressed the following questions/issues:

- *How the VEC Team work contributes to further the development of the CIMP and Audit*
- *Priority monitoring and knowledge gaps that the CIMP must address*

2.3.1 Group A



VEC Team contributions to the development of the CIMP and Audit

- It is a concern that the VEC teams are comprised only of government representatives. There is a need for a forum in communities.
- The nature of the proposals made it difficult to incorporate traditional knowledge aspects in some cases.

- The work on the VECs is important. This will come out in the consultations.

Priority monitoring and knowledge gaps

- From a VEC researcher's perspective, there is agreement that community involvement is needed.
- Regarding, e.g., monitoring of water quality and hydrology, there is a need for technical and specialized training. It is a struggle to ensure community involvement.
- Issues of community capacity building and training are linked to community involvement. Training should start in schools (e.g. through the GLOBE program).
- There is a risk that elders will pass away before knowledge is transmitted – an analogy would be that “libraries are burning down”. There is an urgent need for Traditional Knowledge research and understanding for all VEC teams.
- There are major gaps in the monitoring network for the Mackenzie Valley pipeline area – \$30,000 monitoring budget for water resources. This is equivalent to “Third World status”.
- Better guidelines are needed for how to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into monitoring and research. Over time, the CIMP working group should develop protocols with communities. For now, the focus should be to involve people. But, involvement does not solve problems. Guidelines do not solve problems. Where would funding for community guidelines come from?
- In the ISR, the involvement of people is already built into the processes of work by the co-management bodies. The community members work on boards.
- Some projects are less amenable to community involvement – it is not an “either or” situation.
- Where there is no community involvement in the monitoring, there must still be a process of reporting results to the communities.
- Suggestion for a community or regional “monitoring coordinator”. Possibility to look to the Northern Contaminants Program (NCP) as a model?

2.3.2 Group B

VEC Team contributions to the development of the CIMP and Audit

- There is not adequate meaningful dialogue with communities and regions. Capacity is the limiting factor.
- It is more challenging to develop measures for human health and community wellness.
- Why do we value, e.g. a particular species? For human use, or for its intrinsic value?

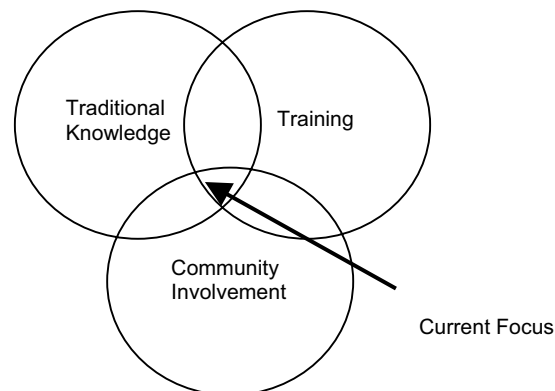
Priority monitoring and knowledge gaps

- Social impacts must be monitored.
- “Parts Approach” or a “Systemic Approach” – the latter being community based, focusing on the complex uses of resources (i.e., should monitoring be done for an individual species basis, or in terms of more complex/integrated ecosystem monitoring?).
- Prioritize the VECs and the indicators, via consultation.
- Need for a longer-term information and/or memory, such as historical records.
- Long-term approach and commitment is needed.
- Comparability issues need to be considered.
- Many of the VECs keep coming up in various ways. How can indicators be linked?
- Consider the “blood pressure” model in terms of VEC and indicator selection: prioritize; make the “best” combination of knowledge/experience available; communicate.

2.3.3 Group C

VEC Team contributions to the development of the CIMP and Audit

- In general, the VEC teams have done a good job: the “right” VECs seem to have been chosen.
- Communities can work from this to identify gaps.
- There is an imbalance between scientific and Traditional Knowledge.
- It was not clear what the purpose of the proposals developed by the VEC teams is – for costing of projects or asking for funding? It is misleading to call them “proposals”.
- Due to the lack of community representatives on the VEC teams, the projects have not been costed properly, in terms of budgeting for training, developing field work skills, etc.
- Need to distinguish between community involvement, traditional knowledge and training. At the moment, we are focusing on all three at the same time, which is difficult at this stage.



Priority monitoring and knowledge gaps

- Different regions have different priorities – ecological, project-specific, and trans-boundary issues.
- People are concerned about the development along the Mackenzie River, and effects on water quality of the MV Pipeline.
- The Cardinal Lake area is very sensitive and of particular concern.
- Also increase attention to impacts on muskrat and beaver habitats, ice (in terms of climate change impacts) and insects.
- Focus on linkages between VECs, e.g. between water and sediment quality and fish habitat quality and community wellness. Another example is linkages between predator and prey species.
- Need for a regional basis as opposed to a species or indicator basis. This is needed to ensure a community-based approach.
- The idea of nodes fits into a regional/community-based approach.
- Need to distinguish between research and monitoring.
- The focus should continue to be on gaps and to prioritize among gaps.

2.3.4 Worksheet Responses (Questions 3.1 – 3.2)

- Most of the respondents indicated that the work conducted to date by the VEC teams is good, and that it provides a starting point to build upon.
- The main critique noted is that communities and regions have been insufficiently involved in the VEC process. This is reflected as an imbalance between scientific and traditional knowledge.

- Most of the respondents commented on the need to include communities and Traditional Knowledge in the VEC work and the CIMP at large. There needs to be communication between the CIMP and communities. Comments in this regard include:
 - Different communities and regions have different needs and priorities.
 - Monitoring must be linked with community concerns. Once these links are established, monitoring gaps and indicators can be determined.
 - Holders of Traditional Knowledge will best decide where Traditional Knowledge fits in.
 - Community capacity to respond to scientific studies must be further developed. Scientists must also develop capacity to work with communities and present their findings in a meaningful way. Such capacity development must be clearly planned for within the CIM Program.
- Many other suggestions were given about the focus needed for the VEC work, including:
 - examining and monitoring linkages between identified VECs;
 - considering long-term monitoring indicators for climate change;
 - gathering baseline information on natural variation in wildlife populations;
 - extending the VEC work into the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, including the Beaufort offshore (given the current oil and gas exploration);
 - determining off-shore marine environmental indicators; and
 - choosing VECs at lower trophic levels than, e.g., caribou and wildlife, so as to detect early warnings and allow for early remedial action.

2.4 Working Session 4: Regional and Community Involvement in the CIMP/VEC Activities

In Working Session 4, the groups addressed the following questions/issues:

- *How can the regions/communities be involved to the fullest extent possible? How should the community consultations be carried out?*
- *How can partnerships with regional/community organizations needed for the CIMP be initiated or maintained?*
- *How can traditional and local knowledge be best integrated into the CIMP?*

2.4.1 Group A

How can the regions/communities be involved to the fullest extent possible? How should the community consultations be carried out?

- There is an issue of how much money to be spent on consultations and how to allocate budget.
- Idea of “piggybacking” consultations when other organizations meet, e.g. the Inuvialuit Game Council (Yukon, Inuvik).
- Need to clarify:
 - a) what we are consulting on,
 - b) how we should do it,
 - c) who will carry out the consultations, and
 - d) who will participate.
- There are different interests among the different communities and regions. In the Gwich'in, there is interest in actual monitoring; for the South Slave, it was suggested to go to the community to see what they want from the program; the Sahtu are still not at the table.
- There is a need for ‘plain language’ materials, to explain what the CIMP is and what benefits the communities will get from it. There is also a need for a basic summary of the

- materials in the resource binder. Suggestion for a one-page fact sheet on the CIMP, the Responsible Authority and the Audit.
- The Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group (WAAG) model can be looked to as a possible model for future consultations. This approach included sending letters, discussion paper, and visits to communities.
 - Need feedback on what has been prepared by the VEC teams.
 - Need an inventory of community resources, people, and information.

2.4.2 Group B

How can the regions/communities be involved to the fullest extent possible? How should the community consultations be carried out?

- There is a need to lay down the ground work:
 - provide resource materials to support communications and consultation process,
 - build relationships with individuals (this takes time and resources), and
 - establish a contact point in each community and work through them.
- There are too many communities to cover at once. Focus on the key areas (pilot projects).
- Make use of the Renewable Resource Councils.
- Consider lessons learned from the Development Impact Zone (DIZ) and consultation approach, as well as the Land Use Planning (LUP) process.
- The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op (ABEKC) model can be looked at for establishing a central database.
- Address translation and interpretation issues.
- Suggestion that first meeting in communities should be with representation from the Working Group. This should be followed up with small meetings with a technical focus.

2.4.3 Group C

How can the regions/communities be involved to the fullest extent possible? What should be the next steps?

- Working Group representatives should come to the communities as soon as possible, and take the responsibility to consult with their region or constituency on how they wish to provide their input.
- Capacity issues vary between communities.
- First, need to establish what the objectives are of the consultation, and identify whom we are trying to consult with.
- There should be an open invitation to communities to participate in the VEC work.
- Going slow is better.
- At the community level, the recruitment of people requires a stable funding source. If this is not available, trained people will leave the communities.
- Whoever goes to the communities needs to “do their homework”. Need to get as much information as possible by meeting with chiefs and consulting on how they want to be approached.
- Suggestion for a regional working group.
- Funding for trainees through year-long internships (e.g. wildlife technician trainees) could be a partnership opportunity.

2.4.4 Worksheet Responses (Questions 4.1 – 4.3)

- In response to the question of needs and expectations of the communities and regions with regards to the CIMP and Audit, respondents indicated the following general comments:

- A detailed definition of community is needed. It must be recognized that leaders, youth, and elders may participate in different ways.
- Each community is unique and has its own concerns. Each community needs to be approached with this in mind.
- Not everyone in the communities will want direct involvement in the CIMP. As such, there is a need to set up or work through existing community groups (such as the Renewable Resource Councils).
- Needs and expectations can best be met through community input into VECs and indicators through Boards, councils, etc, and by using community members as monitors.
- Communities should be kept informed of monitoring program results, and have a role in reviewing the audit.
- Trust must be established between the different parties involved in the CIMP.
- With regard to the establishment and maintenance of partnerships between the CIMP and communities, a key recommendation is that of establishing liaisons to facilitate interaction between communities and the CIMP. Liaisons should be trained in monitoring issues, dedicated specifically to the CIMP and Audit, and live or spend most of their time in the communities.
- It was noted that, to the extent possible, partnerships should be built upon already existing organizations and capacity in the communities.
- In terms of approaches to best integrate Traditional Knowledge into the CIMP, a number of suggestions were provided:
 - Focus on building community capacity to interact with the CIMP and in the VEC work.
 - Tag funds especially for Traditional Knowledge, training, and communication with communities.
 - Include elders and community experts in each VEC team. The Borderland Cooperative should be explored as a model in this regard.
 - Get community members to identify the monitoring questions.
 - Acknowledge that the integration of traditional and scientific knowledge will take time. It is a learning process.
 - Effective communication between CIMP and communities will require resource materials to explain concepts.

2.5 Plenary Session Discussion (Agenda Items No. 16 – Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan and Work Program, and No. 17 – ‘Next Steps’)

As part of Agenda Items No 16 and No 17, a plenary discussion took place in response to a presentation on the Draft Five-Year Strategic Plan and Work Program for the CIMP and Audit, and with regards to ‘next steps’.

- A question was raised regarding the meaning of “public hearings” in the Draft Implementation Framework, section 4.5.7. David Livingstone (DIAND) replied that the term did not imply hearings in a legalistic sense. It was suggested that the term should be changed to something like ‘public information session’. He added that public information sessions are not mentioned in Part 6 of the *MVRMA*; this is an example of how the Framework has Part 6 as its foundation, but also goes beyond Part 6.

“...all of this is really aimed attrying to get ...cumulative effects better monitored and managed, to make sure that we have better links between land use planning, environmental assessment, land and water regulation, and the environmental audit. Those things are, right now, ...not happening.... The difficulty is the development pressures continue to increase...”

Kevin O'Reilly
Canadian Arctic Resources Council

- A discussion took place regarding the role of the Gwich'in and the Sahtu in the CIMP and Audit, both as it relates to the membership of the Responsible Authority, and in relation to the involvement of other Aboriginal peoples (notably, the Inuvialuit and those in other regions in the Mackenzie Valley). The question was raised as to how the RA will reconcile the differences in status with respect to the MVRMA and, as such, the

Auditor and the RA. David Livingstone pointed out that, while the MVRMA names the Gwich'in and the Sahtu, and their land claims specifically provide for the monitoring program and audit, the MVRMA does not limit the involvement of other First Nations. Such involvement would not diminish the role of the Gwich'in or the Sahtu. The challenge appears to be that of getting the active involvement of all groups.

- There was further discussion about the proposed ICC, and general agreement that it was not widely supported. The existing Working Group should continue, providing advice to the Minister of DIAND while the RA is being formed, and the ToR for the audit developed.

- A comment was made that, in the past, chiefs would work together to establish rules for sharing land, resources, and work. With the current development happening fast, we have to work together and share the responsibilities for the environment. Monitoring is sorely needed, but it takes time to do it right.

“I still say that monitoring is sorely needed, but if we have to take that time to establish something, let's do it right....also, the worry about the transboundary issues has to be cleared ...so rules have to be worked out – who does what? Maybe we can all share the workload. We can't do it all...our communities say that a lot of the development is in our backyard, but other people can do some of the work, we can do some of the work...we're all sharing the responsibility of looking after the land, and we have to do monitoring together...”

Rachel Crapeau
Yellowknives Dene First Nation

- It was noted that more detail is needed on how public involvement will be incorporated into the process. A suggestion was made that there should be adequate opportunities for public review of the key products of the process, including the ToR for the audit, the draft work plan, and the interim audit report. The response to public comments (i.e., how they were incorporated, or not, into the process) should also be provided. It was also suggested that plain language fact sheets be developed. David Livingstone (DIAND) replied that the documents are or will be publicly available and can be made available for a public comment period.
- A comment was made that more work and discussion is needed with regards to the structure of the Responsible Authority. There has to be a balance between the regional and government representation on this body
- A brief discussion took place on how the Treasury Board submission for funding the CIMP and Audit would be most effectively done. There has been discussion as to whether the Treasury Board submission for the CIMP and the Audit needs to be submitted as part of the Gwich'in implementation plan. This requires further thought and discussion.

"...I fully support this initiative ...monitoring is a real necessity and a requirement to properly manage our resources. ..., there is a lot of discussion in the last couple of days... (on) how communication gets relayed between regions and communities and is it adequate enough, and capacity issues...and funds... those are issues that are always going to be in front of us, but I think we're moving forward, and ...the Aboriginal governments are going to be consulted ...more adequately as soon as this workshop is completed. I think we're moving in the right direction."

Bob Turner
North Slave Metis Alliance

- A Working Group member pointed out that the planned consultations with Aboriginal governments after this workshop are a step in the right direction, and that progress is being made. The fact that communities have less capacity to participate than the government, however, must be acknowledged. Much boils down to issues of faith and trust between the different parties.

- The challenge associated with getting support from the regions in the Mackenzie Valley, such as Akaitcho and the Deh Cho, was acknowledged. It was also noted that working at the community level might be easier than working at the regional level and that community-level efforts should be continued. Local level monitoring programs will still benefit the CIMP and Audit as a whole.

"I really think this monitoring program is heading in the right direction by involving the local communities, being community-based...we could ...develop at the local level a monitoring program that will...complement the whole impact monitoring program....I am privileged to work with...a group that made me ...appreciate other regional disparities or problemsso that I could incorporate a better management plan in my area."

Maurice Boucher
Akaitcho Treaty 8

- David Livingstone (DIAND) provided some concluding remarks, encouraging all to see past the frustrations and work together to make the CIMP and Audit happen. He acknowledged that the pace of the process has been slow, but noted that a wide range of interests has been brought to the table. The responsibility for moving ahead with the CIMP and Audit are shared amongst many organizations and individuals, including those people in the communities that are concerned about water quality and the quality of the food they eat and the air they breathe. The program will need to be further developed and implemented, with appropriate resources. It may be necessary for organizations to apply some pressure from outside government in order to obtain the needed resources. He also noted the importance of continuing efforts to raise awareness and support for the CIMP and Audit with a range of audiences. David's final point was that the program can contribute to the well-being of the NWT not only in an environmental context, but also in terms of socio-economic benefits such as capacity development and training.

"... the bottom line for me is that this program is really, really important. It is important because it fills a gap in the MVRMA, that monitoring and audit function; it is important because it fills one of the components of the cumulative effects framework we've talked about; it's important as a quality control for what we are doing to our environment, individually and collectively. But, it is at least as important from the socio-economic perspective. The capacity of the communities that we can create out of this program, the training opportunities that this program will represent; the need for more people in the communities to be trained in sciences is critical. The need for more scientists to be trained in the various aspects of Traditional Knowledge is critical. Together we can make this a lot stronger...I think if we miss that opportunity, because we get wrapped up in politics or because we allow our politicians to get wrapped up in politics, then shame on us! We can do a lot better, and we owe it, not just to ourselves, but to our kids to do a lot better..... We really want to get this thing going, so let's do it. Let's do it together."

David Livingstone
DIAND