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OPPORTUNITY PROFILE | Technical Advisor

ABOUT NUNAVUT WATER BOARD

The Nunavut Water Board (NWB) seeks to protect, manage, and regulate freshwaters in Nunavut by incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific knowledge in decision-making. The NWB is based in the hamlet of Gjoa Haven, Nunavut located in the Kitikmeot Region, 1,056 km northeast of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. It is the only settlement on King William Island.

The Board mandate is to provide for the conservation and utilization of waters in Nunavut – except in national parks – in a manner that will provide the optimum benefits for the residents of Nunavut in particular, and Canadians in general. The board is required, in the exercising of that licensing power, to consider any detrimental effects of the potential use of waters or a deposit of waste on other water users and to hold, where appropriate, public hearings. It has responsibilities and powers over the use, management, and regulation of inland water in Nunavut.

The NWB operates at arm's length from government and other parties and is part of a larger management regime constituted of other Institutions of Public Government, including the Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal, the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Planning Commission, as well as other land and resource management bodies like the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Regional Wildlife Organizations, and local Hunters and Trappers Organizations. In particular, the NWB is required to cooperate with the Nunavut Planning Commission to develop land use plans that affect water, and with the Nunavut Impact Review Board to assess environmental and socio-economic impacts of water-related project proposals.

LOCATION NUNAVUT

It is big, ancient, beautiful and new.

Welcome to the youngest territory of Canada, settled over four thousand years ago, recognized as distinctly Canadian in 1999. Nunavummiut are deeply pleased to invite visitors into their lovely home, into one of the largest unspoiled natural paradises on the planet. People from all over are cordially invited to enjoy the arctic wildlife and the Inuit way of life, to explore the top of the world and be dazzled by the vivid dancing hues of the Aurora Borealis.

In 1992, Inuit of the eastern Arctic began writing a new chapter in the story of Canada when they reached an agreement with the Government of Canada to create a new territory called Nunavut in 1999. Nunavut covers one fifth of Canada – 2 million square kilometres, about three times the size of the island of Newfoundland – and is home to some 33,330 people, including 28,000 Inuit. It has 28 villages or communities, including the capital, Iqaluit, located on Baffin Island where the territorial government is. About 7,250 people live in Iqaluit.

Apart from experiencing its spectacular arctic landscapes, visitors and residents gain a very memorable impression of Nunavut that comes directly from the gracious warmth and hospitality of the remarkable people who live here. In traditional Inuit culture, the ethic of sharing is of foremost importance. This deep-rooted social value is eternal. Even today, this sense of collectivity, respect and mutual reliance is what often distinguishes the friendly residents of Nunavut communities from people in many other corners of the dog-eat-dog world.

Aside from its people, Nunavut's greatest economic asset is its mineral wealth, which includes reserves of iron and nonferrous ores, precious metals and diamonds, and petroleum and natural gas. Exploitation of those resources is hampered, however, by high production costs and transportation difficulties. The federal government has participated in resource development mainly by providing infrastructure and assisting in the search for minerals. In addition, government agencies produce and distribute electric power throughout the territory. The government and its agencies are a major source of employment and income for the territory.

Nunavut is an exciting jurisdiction in which to work in the regulated environment. It is the homeland of the Inuit, and its governance, law and culture reflect that fact. It is a unique legal jurisdiction, a territory created pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Of the provinces and territories, Nunavut is the only one with a majority aboriginal population,

and the only one which both French and English are minority languages. In Nunavut, many issues arise which have simply not arisen before in Canada, and which require creativity and a solution-orientated approach.

This role requires relocation to the community of Gjoa Haven in the central part of Nunavut approximately 250 km above the Arctic Circle. Gjoa Haven is a growing community home to about 1,100 and is typical of Nunavut communities in that it has many artisans; however, the quality of work produced by Gjoa Haven carvers is recognized in the industry as exceptional. Gjoa Haven is often visited by arctic history buffs. The local Inuit people are famous for their historic acts of kindness.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Under the direction of the Director Technical Services, the Technical Advisor is responsible to provide technical support for all internal and external technical and scientific services required by the Nunavut Water Board.

KEY ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assist in the processing of Water Licence applications:

- Assess the accuracy of information received for water licence applications, summarizing findings including input from interested parties, identifying outstanding issues and advising the Board.
- Coordinate with federal, territorial and local governments, Regional Inuit Associations and citizens of Nunavut for technical, logistical and administrative support on applications filed including those applications requiring technical meetings, pre-hearings and hearings.
- Support and assist with the coordination of activities of the Nunavut Water Board in assessments and decisions of all Type A and B water use and waste disposal licence applications, amendments, renewals and assignments applicable to the managing of water resources in the Nunavut Settlement Area.
- Develop and provide guidelines and direction to proponents.

2. Assist in the development and implementation of licensing processes, procedures and activities:

- Assist in the design, development, and implementation of licensing processes for applications submitted to the Board.
- Liaise with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada on issues related to the enforcement of Nunavut Water Board licences.
- Assess the need for studies and technical data in support of licence applications.
- Recommend and arrange for specialized technical consulting services (as needed).
- Aid in the development of Nunavut Water Board policies, procedures, guidelines and systems to improve the Nunavut Water Board's effectiveness and efficiency.
- Work with Interested Parties and the other Institutions of Public Government, i.e., Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Planning Commission, and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to streamline the licence application review process and avoid duplication.
- Develop project specific consultation plans and assist in the development of project-specific budgets.

3. Provide advice and issue reports and communications materials:

- Responsible for the production and review of technical reports and documents.
- Advise and assist the Board in the review of applications, technical reports and interventions.
- Provide training to the Board and other staff on technical issues and applications.
- Represent the Nunavut Water Board on technical committees that may be formed from time to time.

- Ensure that studies, plans, and/or reports submitted by applicants are undertaken in a manner consistent with sound environmental and engineering principles.
- Assist in the development of Nunavut Water Board communication material.

THE PERSON

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

The Ideal candidate will possess the following:

Knowledge:

- Familiarity of regulatory concepts, principles, and review processes.
- Thorough knowledge of water sciences and environmental engineering.
- Northern development initiatives, including the mining industry and municipal operations.
- Knowledge of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Article 13 and the Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act as well as the Nunavut Water Regulations.
- Effective communication strategies for public participation.
- Efficiency and working knowledge of word processing, spreadsheet and presentation.
- Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun would be an asset.

Ability:

- Summarize complex technical and scientific information for a non-technical audience.
- Manage large amounts of information efficiently.
- Prioritize effectively.
- Deal with frequent interruptions and changes in priorities.
- Work as an active member of a multidisciplinary team.
- Work independently when needed.

Skills:

- Planning and project management.
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Excellent organization skills.
- Excellent presentation skills.
- Good interpersonal skills including the ability to use tact and diplomacy and work well under pressure.
- Problem and conflict resolution skills.

Education:

- University degree in Environmental Engineering, Environment, Hydrology, Geology or Mining.
- Or a diploma with experience in a related field will also be considered.

Experience:

- Preferably a minimum of three years' experience in the field.

- Experience managing project-related information.
- Experience with multi-stakeholder processes.
- Personal and professional experience in the Arctic and in a cross-cultural setting.
- Candidates must be willing to submit and pass a criminal record check.

COMPENSATION

A competitive compensation package will be provided including an attractive base salary and excellent benefits. Further details will be discussed in a personal interview.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Ardyce Kouri or Sonny Kapoor

Leaders International Executive Search
Suite 501 Fox One
10226 – 104 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 1B8

Phone: 780-420-9900

Email: Edmonton@Leadersinternational.com