



**NIRB File No.: 07YN019**  
NPC File No.: 148322  
NRI File No.: 02 023 16R-M

October 11, 2016

To: The Honourable Paul Quassa  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
Government of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 2410  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: [pquassa@gov.nu.ca](mailto:pquassa@gov.nu.ca); [qellsworth@gov.nu.ca](mailto:qellsworth@gov.nu.ca)

Re: **Screening Decision for McGill University's "An Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region**

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Dear Mr. Paul Quassa:

On July 7, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen McGill University's (the Proponent) proposed amendments to the "An Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change" project from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) due to significant modification to the original project proposal (NIRB File No. 07YN019). The NPC indicated within its screening referral that the amended project proposal conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP) and that the conformity determination issued on January 8, 2013 continues to apply.

Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB File No. 07YN019, the NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of McGill University's "An Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change" project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated October 11, 2016 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: An Investigation of the Sensitivity of High Arctic Permafrost to Climate Change
- NIRB File No.: 07YN019
- Application No.: 124692

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 07YN019 (October 11, 2016)