



**NIRB File No.: 06YN071**  
NPC File No.: 148573  
NRI File No.: 0601016R-M  
DFO File No.: S-17/18-1006-NU

July 17, 2017

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

The Honourable Catherine McKenna,  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc  
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the  
Canadian Coast Guard  
Government of Canada  
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**Re: Extension Request for NIRB Screening of ArcticNet’s “ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition” Project Proposal**

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On May 23, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received ArcticNet’s “ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission for screening, pursuant to Part 3 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). Pursuant to subsection 92(4) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB hereby requests that the responsible Ministers extend the period for the submission of the Board’s written report for the screening of this project proposal, NIRB File No. 06YN071.

Following a preliminary completeness check, the NIRB determined that the proposal as submitted did not contain the necessary information for the NIRB to carry out its screening; therefore, on May 24, 2017 the Board requested that the Proponent provide the additional information. On June 1, 2017 the NIRB received the required information and commenced the screening pursuant to Part 3 of the NuPPAA. During its completeness check, the NIRB required clarification on several project components to complete the scoping process prior to initiating the public commenting period; responses were provided by the Proponent on June 8, 2017. On June

16, 2017 the NIRB distributed notice of the project proposal to potentially affected communities and interested parties with a request for comments to be submitted for the Board's consideration by June 26, 2017. Due to the high volume of screenings being considered by the Board since that date and the continued vacancies on the Board limiting board member availability, additional time is required to complete the decision-making process for this file.

All documents received and pertaining to the NIRB's screening of this project proposal can be accessed 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: ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition
- NIRB File No.: 06YN071
- Application No.: 125145

The NIRB is unable to provide its written report for the screening of this project proposal within the 45 days as set out in the NuPPAA. The NIRB anticipates that the screening of this project proposal will be completed by **July 24, 2017** at which time a screening decision report will be submitted to the responsible Ministers for consideration.

If this request is approved, NIRB understands that the responsible authority will notify the Proponent and the NIRB of the extension.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding this request, please contact our office toll free at 1-866-233-3033.

Sincerely,



Ryan Barry  
Executive Director  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Anissa Merzouk, ArcticNet  
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services  
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada  
Véronique D'Amours-Gauthier, Fisheries and Oceans Canada