



**NIRB File No.: 06YN071**

NPC File No.: 148573

NRI File No.: 0601016R-M

DFO File No.: S-17/18-1006-NU

July 26, 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: Screening Decision for 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, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region**

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On May 23, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen 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 (NPC or Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NPC noted that the previous conformity determination issued on July 11, 2006 for the activities associated with the current proposal continues to apply and determined that the project proposal was a significant modification to the project because of the addition of the collection of river water samples was not part of the original or previously amended proposal and its inclusion is a significant modification of the project.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada* (Nunavut Agreement) and section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **06YN071**, 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 ArcticNet's "ArcticNet Project 1: The Northwest Passage at the end of the Last Glaciation. ArcticNet 2: River sampling during 2017 ArcticNet expedition" 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 July 26, 2017 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's 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: 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

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. 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.: 06YN071 (July 26, 2017)