



NIRB File No.: 13AN014
NPC File No.: 148699

April 25, 2018

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

Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca; and catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca

**Re: Screening Decision for Students on Ice’s “Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition”
Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On February 15, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Students on Ice’s “Students on Ice 2018 Arctic 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 determinations issued for this project for the activities associated with the current proposal continue to apply and has determined that the project proposal is a significant modification to the project because it includes new locations in the community of Grise Fiord and Coburg Island.

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*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (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 **13AN014**, 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 Students on Ice’s “Students on Ice 2018 Arctic 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 April 25, 2018 to the responsible Minister. 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 by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Students on Ice 2018 Arctic Expedition
- NIRB File No.: 13AN014
- Application No.: 125265

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

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 Acting Director, Technical Services, Kelli Gillard at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: P. J. Akeegok, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Honourable David Joanasie, Minister of Culture and Heritage

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 13AN014 (April 25, 2018)