



**NIRB File No.: 19YN022**  
NPC File No.: 149103

June 17, 2019

Lyle Whyte  
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Saint Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec  
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Sent via email: [lyle.whyte@mcgill.ca](mailto:lyle.whyte@mcgill.ca)

**Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding McGill University's "Evaluation of natural bioremediation potential of Arctic beaches" project proposal**

Dear Lyle Whyte:

On March 28, 2019 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen McGill University's "Evaluation of natural bioremediation potential of Arctic beaches" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). On June 3, 2019 the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by June 13, 2019.

On or before June 13, 2019 the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)
- Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association (Resolute Bay HTA)

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125469](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125469).

A *summary* of the public concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Concerns regarding wildlife, marine mammals and birds and their habitat;
- Concerns with traditional uses of land and Inuit harvesting activities; and
- Research to be conducted in an area that the Hunters and Trappers Association has deemed a no research zone due to traditional hunting occurring in the area

The NIRB would like to provide McGill University with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister(s). The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **July 2, 2019**.

If McGill University determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), or through the online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).

If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4609 or [johokannoak@nirb.ca](mailto:johokannoak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Jaida Ohokannoak  
Technical Advisor II  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                   Distribution List  
Mira Okshevsky, McGill University  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Mayor of Resolute Bay  
Resolute Bay Hunters and Trappers Association