



Government of Nunavut
Nunavut Kavamat
Gouvernement du Nunavut

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

(867) 975-7828
 (867) 975-7870
www.gov.nu.ca

GN-01: Archaeological and Paleontological Sites	
Department	Culture and Heritage
Organization	Government of Nunavut
Subject/Topic	
References	NIRB Notice of Screening
CONCERNS	
<p>Aurora Expedition is planning four cruises in Nunavut aboard the MS. Greg Mortimer during the 2022 (2 cruises) and 2023 (2 cruises) cruise seasons. According to the designated landing locations described in the application documents, it is likely that visits to certain areas will overlap with known archaeological sites and subsequently require an application for an archaeological permit.</p> <p>Under the <i>Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontology Site Regulations (Nunavut Act)</i> the Government of Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage is the responsible agency for the management and protection of Nunavut's archaeological heritage. This is achieved through legislation, policy, and procedures including the requirement to obtain authorization, in the form of a permit, from the GN. Since 2005, the GN has required that commercial tourism operators likely to visit or come in contact with archaeological or palaeontological sites obtain a Class 1 Permit*.</p> <p>The permit process addresses the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The landing of thousands of visitors each year at archaeological and historical sites in Nunavut without the knowledge of the Department of Culture and Heritage or Inuit Heritage Trust; • Concerns expressed by archaeologists, tourists and local residents about site protection arising from ship borne tourism; • Incidents of site disturbance; • Potential cumulative effects of large-scale and unregulated site visitations; . • The need for accountability with respect to site disturbance arising from tourist activities. <p>The permit process also provides the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a mechanism through which the Government of Nunavut can obtain information concerning current site conditions (monitoring and reporting) and, • Protects visitor groups from being held responsible for damages to a site that occurred before and after their visit. 	
RECOMMENDATIONS	

A Class 1 Archaeology Permit is required from the Department of Culture and Heritage.

The applicant must apply for a Class 1 permit yearly (2022 and 2023). As the Proponent has already applied for the required permits in 2022, the GN would like to take this opportunity to stress that they respect the requirements of the archaeological permits if/when they are issued and to pay special attention to the concerns noted above during landings and exploration of the indicated areas.

**Permit applications must be submitted to the Department of Culture and Heritage by March 31 of each year. Permits are usually issued in late-May early-June. Each permit application is also reviewed by Inuit Heritage Trust and forwarded to nearby communities. Article 33 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, and Article 20 of the Nunavik Land Claim Agreement, provide the framework for decisions concerning approval or denial of permits.*

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS