



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Ottawa's "Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
P.O. Box 100
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence
23YN016
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs#116075258

July 31, 2023

Keith Morrison
Manager, Impact Assessment
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for University of Ottawa's "Inuit Qaujisarnimut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat" Project Proposal

Dear Keith Morrison,

On July 21, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on University of Ottawa's "Inuit Qaujisarnimut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

CIRNAC #1: Fuel Quantity and Handling Procedures

The Proponent indicates that three ships and local boats will be used as modes of transportation on water, but it did not specify fuel quantities or fuel management practices. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent provides an estimated total quantity of fuel that is anticipated to be used to support their project activities and take the following and any other precautionary measures in handling fuel to avoid spills and minimize negative environmental impacts:

- Avoid refueling the boat while in the water, to the extent practicable;
- Use drip pans or other equivalent devices when refueling; and
- Have spill kits readily available on the boat to clean spills onboard.

CIRNAC #2: Waste Classification and Disposal Procedures

The Proponent indicated that waste generated from sampling activities will be minimal and transported to southern locations for disposal, but it did not list waste products that are reasonably expected from activities onboard its vessels (e.g., sewage, combustible waste) or



where it intends to discharge this waste. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent provides a description of the anticipated waste and disposal location(s), as well as identifies all measures that it will implement to prevent potential negative environmental impacts resulting from waste disposal activities.

CIRNAC #3: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC appreciates the effort the Proponent has made in contacting the Aqqiumavvik Society in Arviat and Ikaarvik in Pond Inlet, as well as their commitments to employing, training, and consulting with Inuit. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent:

- Continues consulting with relevant interested Inuit, hamlets, and community organizations in Pond Inlet and Arviat;
- Considers consulting with other relevant interested Inuit, hamlets, and community organizations, such as those in Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Resolute Bay, Kugluktuk, and Grise Fiord, if it conducts research activities within or near these communities; and
- Considers engaging with affected, adjacent, transboundary Indigenous groups who may have an interest in the project.

As part of any consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Incorporation of Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional and non-traditional activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Mitigation measures designed to prevent disturbance to sites with cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact John MacInnis by e-mail at john.macinnis@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa
Manager, Impact Assessment

