



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 23YN026**

NPC File No.: 150075

July 7, 2023

To: Mosha Cote
Manager, Research Liaison
PO Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.com

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for York University's "Identifying Putative Microbial Drivers of Methane on Earth and Mars" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

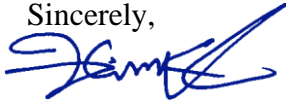
Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Joanna Quassa, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College for York University's "Identifying Putative Microbial Drivers of Methane on Earth and Mars" in the Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region, dated July 7, 2023.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4616 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Acting Manager, Technical Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 23YN026 (July 7, 2023)

cc: Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association