



NIRB File No.: 24YN026
NPC File No.: 150407

August 2, 2024

To: The Honourable Dan Vandal
Minister of Northern Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: **Screening Decision for the Government of Nunavut's "Estimating the abundance of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation" Project Proposal, Kivalliq and Qikiqtani Regions**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On May 24, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen the Government of Nunavut's "Estimating the abundance of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which conforms to both the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan and the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On June 18, 2024, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of screen the Government of Nunavut's "Estimating the abundance of the Foxe Basin polar bear subpopulation" 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 August 2, 2024 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/project/125939.

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 Director, Operations, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 24YN026 (August 2, 2024)

cc: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., Minister of Environment and Climate Change,
Government of Canada
The Honourable Daniel Qavvik, Minister of Environment, Government of Nunavut