

# Public Registry - Project Proposals

NPC 150251: Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate Change in the Arctic Hamlet of Pangnirtung  
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**Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued**

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Type of application: New

Proponent name:

Bhabesh Roy

Proponent company:

Municipality of Pangnirtung

**Project Description:**

Name of the Project: Bursting the Banks: Dealing with flooding due to climate change in the Arctic Municipality of Pangnirtung, Nunavut. Introduction: The Municipality of Pangnirtung is located in the Canadian Territory of Nunavut and lies on the South-eastern shore of the Pangnirtung Fiord, which itself is located at latitude 69.1675o N and Longitude 65.6917o W on the eastern side of Baffin Island. In total, the community covers an area of 7.5 km<sup>2</sup> with a population of about 1850 in 2024. The Duval River is the only potable water source. A steel bridge over this river connects the eastern and Western parts of the town. In 2008, the old bridge was washed out and in 2023, a road containing a set of culverts failed due to flash flooding of Duval River. The fact that Pangnirtung is a remote area with underlying permafrost entails unique risks with respect to climate warming and altered hydrology. The Municipality of Pangnirtung has recently received funding from CIRNAC under the Climate Change Preparedness in the North program to conduct Scientific Research. The proposed Research aims to better characterize the hydrology of Pangnirtung, especially the role of the snow regime and its impact on flash flooding and drainage in the Duval River watershed and the community of Pangnirtung as climate changes. The project also seeks to learn more about the ground thermal/hydraulic regime at select points near the river and bridge. It builds on an existing NRC-funded project, which involves water flow and quality monitoring of the Duval River including assessing the resilience of Hamlet's water

supply. The proposed scientific Research involves mathematical modeling of the local hydrology in the Duval River watershed. This will be closely supported by field measurements, including snow depth at select locations, weather data, ground temperature at specific locations, and possible aerial imageries of the watershed.

**Historical data collection** The research team will collect available historical data, including temperature, precipitation, and snow from different sources, and identify the data gaps.

**Field Monitoring** A preliminary search of data sources reveals there is no sufficient information on snowfall. We are proposing to install a weather monitoring station including snowfall depths in the mid to upper reaches of the Duval River. In order to supplement this information, we are proposing to examine satellite data from sources, such as RADARSAT. In order to verify the RADARSAT data, we are proposing to measure the snow depths towards the end of winter season. Sensors will be deployed at select locations to record ground temperatures at different depths (permafrost conditions). The goal of this is to obtain a sense of how the active layer is changing, and, in turn, the potential for infiltration and groundwater contribution to surface flow. This entails consequences for both the amount of water available for flooding as well as drinking water supplies.

**Mathematical modeling** The Duval watershed will be modeled via a selection of an appropriate control volume and treating the problem as a hydrologic routing formulation, with particular emphasis on snowpack characterization and snowmelt contribution to flow. The control volume will focus on the Hamlet; however, it will likely encompass both the Duval watershed as well as some areas outside of it. This requires establishing a snow monitoring station. As mentioned, the proposed research will make use of flow monitoring data currently being recorded by Hamlet under the project funded by NRC. These datasets will enable the development of a snowmelt-runoff model and improved understanding of snowmelt physics. The models will be key in assessing the effects of climate change, particularly the shifts in the peak and/or flash flood occurrence, magnitude, and frequency in the drainage area and drainage problems in the inhabited areas of the Hamlet. This understanding will help Pangnirtung in designing various infrastructure facilities, such as a new bridge to connect two parts of the town separated by the Duval River and other road arteries in the community in such a way that we can minimize drainage challenges and reduce maintenance costs.

**Expected deliverables and outcomes of your project:**

- Snow monitoring station and permafrost monitoring using thermistors which would be continued beyond the project period.
- Mathematical model (calibrated and validated) to simulate the snowmelt runoff.
- Relationship between temperature increases, precipitation events, and the phase shift and magnitude of flood events
- Workshops to identify the Traditional Knowledge that could be embedded into the study
- Training local college/school students on the use of and reading the data from the snow monitoring station.
- Planning to collect Indigenous Knowledge/Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

[illegible]

## Project Schedule

2024-04-01

2027-03-31

List of project geometries:

Id
Geometry
Location Name

11859

point

Hamlet of Pangnirtung

[11896](#)

point

Weather station is proposed to be installed at 2.4km away from the Town.

NPC Planning regions:

**No Approved Plan**

### Project Land Use and Authorizations

Project Land Use:

All-Weather Road Access

Scientific Research

Licensing Agencies:

Nunavut Water Board

Nunavut Impact Review Board

Nunavut Research Institute

### Material Use

Equipment:

	Type Quantity Type Use
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Excavator

1

medium size

Making trench for installing the stands of Solar panel

Excavator

1

medium size

Making trench for installing the stands of Solar panel

Fuel Use:

	Type Container Capacity Use
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Diesel

1

200

Digging trench for installing Solar panel stands

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type
Container
Capacity
Use

nil

0

0

nil

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m <sup>2</sup> )
Retrieval Method
Retrieval Location

2

Duval River

pumping

### Waste and Impacts

Environmental Impacts:

No impact

Waste Management:

Waste Type
Quantity Generated
Treatment Method
Disposal Method

Non-Combustible wastes

unknown

Place in the Municipal dump

Truck