



# CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Municipality of Pangnirtung's  
"Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate  
Change in the Arctic" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office  
918 Sivumugiaq Street  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence  
24YN022  
Our file - Notre référence  
GCdocs# 126431261

June 20, 2024

Mia Otokiak  
Impact Assessment Officer  
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 Municipality of Pangnirtung's "Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate Change in the Arctic" Project Proposal**

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On June 10, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Municipality of Pangnirtung's "Bursting the Banks: Dealing with Flooding due to Climate Change in the Arctic" 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: Excavation and Fuel Handling Activities**

The Proponent indicates that an excavator will be used to create a trench for installing solar panels, and fuel will be used to support project activities (e.g., trucks and all-terrain vehicles). CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent describe measures that will be implemented to minimize potential impacts from excavation and fuel handling activities on the environment, pursuant to Term & Condition 6 and 7 in Appendix A: *Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions*.

Some considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Storing excavated material away from waterbodies and using erosion controls (e.g., silt fences), to prevent enhanced sedimentation into waterbodies;
- Refuelling of all equipment, as well as the storage of fuel, occur a minimum of thirty-one (31) meters away from the high water mark of any waterbody; and
- Drip pans or other equivalent device(s) should be used when refuelling equipment on the site to aid in the prevention of fuel spills.



## **CIRNAC 2: Consultation with Interested Parties**

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consult with relevant interested Inuit, community members, and community organizations in Pangnirtung 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](mailto:john.macinnis@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Courtney White  
A/Manager, Impact Assessment

