



**NIRB File No.: 24YN040**  
NPC File No.: 150480

October 4, 2024

Jackie Dawson  
University of Ottawa  
60 University Pvt.  
Ottawa, ON K1N-6N5

Sent via email: [Jackie.dawson@uottawa.ca](mailto:Jackie.dawson@uottawa.ca)

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

Dear Jackie Dawson:

On August 7, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen University of Ottawa's "Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan and with the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. On September 20, 2024, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **24YN040** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

***Project Scope:***

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126000](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126000).

<b>Project:</b>	Inuit Qaujisarnirmut Pilirijjutit on Arctic Shipping Risks in Inuit Nunangat
<b>Region:</b>	Nunavut wide
<b>Location:</b>	Multiple locations across the Northwest Passage, Ellesmere Island, and Hudson Bay area.

<b>Closest Community:</b>	Pond Inlet, Arviat, Dundas Harbour, King William Island, Arctic Bay, Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay, Fort Ross, Resolute Bay, Devon Island, Prince Leopold, Kugluktuk, Grise Fiord, Smith Sound, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait, Resolution Island, Hantzsch Island, and Tookookito Inlet.
<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to collect air, water, and sediment samples of the Northwest Passage to analyze and understand the risks of climate change and pollution due to anticipated increase in shipping traffic across Inuit Nunangat.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	April 2022 to March 2026.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collect water samples from on board ships (Amundsen, Adventure Canada, and Students on Ice),
- Collect water and sediment samples at shore locations along cruise ship routes,
- Collect community-based sampling of air, water, and sediment,
- Use boats and a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) to collect water samples, and
- Transit Nunavut waters from July to September 2024 and 2025.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126000](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126000) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination and Application*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Project Description*
- *Mitigative Measures*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by University of Ottawa project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **October 14, 2024**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;

- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126000](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126000).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at toll free 1 (866) 233-3033 or [rqammaniq@nirb.ca](mailto:rqammaniq@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Robby Qammaniq  
Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc:

Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Brenda Pilikapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Hamlet of Arctic Bay,  
Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Association,  
Hamlet of Pond Inlet,  
Mittimatalik Hunters and Trappers Organization,  
City of Iqaluit,  
Amaruq HTO,  
Hamlet of Kinngait,  
Kinngait Hunters and Trappers Organization,  
Hamlet of Kimmirut  
Kimmirut Hunters and Trappers Organization,  
Hamlet of Arviat,  
Arviat Hunters and Trappers Organization,  
Hamlet of Gjoa Haven,  
Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Organization,  
Hamlet of Cambridge Bay,  
Cambridge Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization,  
Hamlet of Kugluktuk,  
Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization.

## Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

### General

1. University of Ottawa (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150480), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, August 7, 2024).
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licenses as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments related to the project.

### Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

### Fuel and Chemical Storage

7. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.

### Marine-Based Activities

8. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed (e.g. Navy Board Inlet, Lancaster Sound, Milne Inlet, Bellot Strait).
9. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.
10. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.
11. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels

ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.

12. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
13. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
14. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 500 metres of a walrus haul out while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft.
15. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
16. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.
17. The Proponent shall implement measures designed to minimize disturbance to seabed sediments and benthic communities and marine wildlife when carrying out project activities within the marine environment.

## **Water Use**

18. The Proponent shall ensure that water extraction from any fish-bearing waterbody is done with appropriate care and caution. Small lakes or streams should not be used for water withdrawal unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

## **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

19. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.
20. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone<sup>1</sup> appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at [www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

21. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
22. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

### **Other**

23. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
24. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.