

NPC 150602: Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS)

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Proposal Status: Conformity Determination Issued

[Overview Documents Questionnaire](#)

[Project Overview](#)

Type of application: New

Proponent name:

Philip Ferguson

Proponent company:

University of Manitoba

Project Description:

Northern communities receive inequitable services compared to the rest of Canada, particularly those related to communications and data sharing. Even newer satellite internet service remains unreliable in the north, which limits critical communication amongst communities for environmental predictions and emergency medicine. The Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS) project will be a community-led endeavour that aims to understand the opportunities and challenges associated with high-bandwidth internet communications for northern communities and address them with a drone airship to act as a satellite communications hub for communities. The early stages of the project will include community consultations, interviews, and workshops to understand the needs and requirements from the community. We intend to study the social, technical, and emergency requirements from a variety of sources, including the elders, youth, hunters, trappers, wildlife management, town council, and others. We intend to learn from and grow with the community members throughout every stage of the project, while fairly compensating all research participants. This is a community-led research project with local (salaried) staff from the community. After developing concepts for the airships, the team, including members of the community and the hunters / trappers organization, will launch and fly the prototype airships in coordination with Transport Canada and the local airport authorities. The airships will be under complete control of the community members at all times, in constant contact with air traffic management personnel.

[Project Schedule](#)

Start Date:

2025-04-01

End Date:

2027-03-01

[Project Map](#)

List of project geometries:

Id

Geometry

Location Name

[14219](#)

polygon

These are the areas over which we would like to test the airship functionality.

NPC Planning regions:

Keewatin

[Project Land Use and Authorizations](#)

Project Land Use:

Airport

Marine-Based Activities

Scientific Research

Licensing Agencies:

Nunavut Research Institute

Government of Canada - Transport Canada

[Material Use](#)

Equipment:

Type

Quantity

Type

Use

Airship

1

20 m diameter

The airship will be used to provide high-bandwidth communications to hunters and trappers out on the land.

Airship

1

20 m diameter

The airship will be used to provide high-bandwidth communications to hunters and trappers out on the land.

Fuel Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

Other

1

50

We plan to use hydrogen to fuel the airship.

Hazardous Material and Chemical Use:

Type

Container

Capacity

Use

No data found

Water Consumption:

Daily Amount (m²)

Retrieval Method

Retrieval Location

0

[Waste and Impacts](#)

Environmental Impacts:

We do not anticipate generating any waste in this project.

Waste Management:

Waste Type

Quantity Generated

Treatment Method

Disposal Method

No data found