



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN012

Project Name: The “Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS)” project
Proponent Name: University of Manitoba
Project Type: Research Region: Kivalliq
Public Registry: www.nirb.ca 126192
Comment Deadline: **July 4, 2025**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability, and Service (ACCESS)” project is located within the Kivalliq region, near Chesterfield Inlet. The Proponent intends 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; will be a community-led endeavor. The program is proposed to take place from July 2025 to March 2027. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Conduct social needs assessment (personal interviews) with the community to understand current communications and connectivity, their challenges and suggestions for improvement
- Assembling and use of an approximate 20 metre diameter airship (blimp) near the community to provide high-bandwidth communications to test functionality
- Use of local accommodations and facilities in Chesterfield Inlet

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN012** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to **(867) 983-2594**.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB's screening process, please contact Amir Pourmahabadian, Senior Impact Assessment Officer at apourmahabadian@nirb.ca.