



May 20, 2025
NPC File No. 150741

Cassel Kapolak

Manager, Technical Administration
Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB)
P.O. Box 1360, Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
By email: ckapolak@nirb.ca; info@nirb.ca;
kgillard@nirb.ca

Adam Lewis

Nunavik Marine Region Impact Review Board
PO Box 509, Kuujuaq, Quebec, J0M 1C0
By email: alewis@nmirb.ca

Janelle Kennedy

Nunavik Marine Region Planning Commission
CP 1139, Kuujuaq, Quebec, J0M 1C0
By email: admin@nmrpc.ca

Justin McDonnell

Government of Nunavut
Community and Government Services
PO Box 1000 Station 200
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
By email: JMcDonnell@gov.nu.ca

Mosha Cote

Manager-Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
P.O. Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
By email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca

Brenda Pilakapsi

Lands Administrator
Kivalliq Inuit Association
P.O. Box 340, Rankin Inlet NU X0C 0G0
By email: bpilakapsi@kivalliqinuit.ca;
aburton@kivalliqinuit.ca; mserra@kivalliqinuit.ca;
dirLands@kivalliqinuit.ca; landsAdmin@kivalliqinuit.ca

Dear Cassel Kapolak, Mosha Cote, Adam Lewis, Brenda Pilakapsi, Janelle Kennedy and Justin McDonnell:

RE: NPC File # 150741 [Kivalliq-Baffin Connector Marine Survey]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. The Government of Nunavut's Department of Community and Government Services (GN-CGS) is proposing a marine survey along the proposed cable route for a Kivalliq-Baffin Connector (KBC) Fibre Optic Cable that would involve the installation of a 1,050 km undersea fibre optic cable in southern Nunavut, linking the communities of Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait (on Baffin Island), and Coral Harbour (Salliq) on Southampton Island to high-speed internet. The cable will connect to an existing branching unit in Salluit, Nunavik, integrating Nunavut's network with the broader fibre infrastructure in northern Quebec.
2. Key activities of the marine survey include:
 - Swath bathymetry (multibeam echo sounder)
 - Side scan sonar
 - Subbottom profiling
 - Magnetometer surveys to locate existing infrastructure (if needed)
 - Sediment sampling (every 5 km in waters up to 25 m deep)

3. The marine survey will cover the full 1,050 km cable route, with a survey corridor extending 250 m on each side of the planned cable route. The survey is expected to take 35 to 45 days and will be conducted during the open-water season in either 2025 or 2026. Operations may run 24 hours a day, depending on contractor capability, and all activities will comply with relevant marine safety and environmental regulations.
4. Location: Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and Transboundary Regions; [Iqaluit, Kimmirut, and Kinngait, Salliq [Coral Harbour] and Salluit (Nunavik)]

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal. It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP. The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=150741>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the portions of the above-noted project proposal within the Nunavut Settlement Area; ***the proponent is advised to contact the authorizing agencies outside the Nunavut Settlement Area copied in this letter to identify any additional requirements that may be applicable.*** Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required.

Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the NUPPAA.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 447-4563.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SA' with a stylized flourish.

Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission