



NIRB File No.: 25YN051

Associated with NIRB File No: 06AN041

NPC File No.: 150822

Associated with NPC File No: 150630

August 11, 2025

To: The Honourable Margaret Nakashuk
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
926 Sivumugiaq,
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0

Sent via email: mnakashuk6@gov.nu.ca and sbaines6@gov.nu.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" project proposal, Kitikmeot and Oikiqtani Regions

Dear Honourable Minister:

On the June 9, 2025, Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" project is not required pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*. Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated August 11, 2025 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed and the information related to the project proposal is accessible from the NIRB's Public Registry at www.nirb.ca/project/126200.

The Board only addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a “responsible Minister with decision-making authority” for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. Regulatory Authorities and other Authorizing Agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g., Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Manager, Impact Assessment, Kelli Gillard at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Albert Ehaloak
Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 25YN051 (August 11, 2025)

cc: James Eetoolook, Acting President Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Olayuk Akesuk, President Qikiqtani Inuit Association
The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand P.C, MP, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs