



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 25YN051**

Associated with NIRB File No: 06AN041

NPC File No.: 150822

Associated with NPC File No: 150630

August 11, 2025

To: Mosha Cote
Manager, Research Liaison
A-959 Nunavut DR.
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0

Sent via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.com

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" project proposal, Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Margaret Nakashuk, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College for Thompson River University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" Project Proposal in the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani Region, dated August 11, 2025.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,

Aghalingiak Ohokannoak
Public Registry Coordinator
Nunavut Impact Review Board

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

cc: Eric Bottos, Thompson River University
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Cory Barker, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada