



**SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE No.: 25TN072**

NPC File No.: 150903

January 13, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Adventure Canada’s “Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Nova” is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent’s compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister’s accepts this Screening Decision Report.

OUTLINE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.....	2
PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS.....	2
ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF NUPPAA.....	6
VIEWS OF THE BOARD	8
RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS	12
OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	15
CONCLUSION	16
<u>TABLES</u>	
TABLE 1: NIRB’S ASSESSMENT PROCESS.....	2
TABLE 2: COMMENTS RECEIVED	4
TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF THE BOARD’S ASSESSMENT OF FACTORS S. 90 NUPPAA	6
<u>APPENDICES</u>	
APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT	17
APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR LAND USE PERMIT HOLDERS	19

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On August 28, 2025, the NIRB received a referral to screen Adventure Canada’s “Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Nova” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable land use plan. All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or www.nirb.ca/project/126232.

- Project Name: Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Nova
- NIRB File No.: 25TN072
- NIRB Application No.: 126232

Table 1: NIRB’s Assessment Process

Date	Stage
August 28, 2025	Receipt of project proposal referral from the Commission
August 28, 2025	Pursuant to s. 144(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> the NIRB requested the Proponent complete an online application to address information required for Screening
September 9, 2025	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
October 21, 2025	Translated Public engagement and comment request (which included terms and conditions) was issued to the following communities
November 11, 2025	Receipt of public comments
November 19, 2025	Pursuant to Article 12 s 12.4.5 of the <i>Nunavut Agreement</i> and s. 92(3) of the <i>NuPPAA</i> , an extension to the 45-day timeline for the provision of the Board’s Report was requested from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Minister of Transport
January 13, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

1. Project Scope

Location	<p>Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region.</p> <p>Voyage 1: Kinngait, Hudson Strait, Kimmirut, Resolution Island, Frobisher Bay, Sir Charles Francis Hall Bay, and Iqaluit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transboundary: Davis Strait, Killiniq, Akpaktok Island in Ungava Bay, Ungava Peninsula, Douglas Harbour, Salluit, Digges Islands, and Cape Wolstenholme <p>Voyage 2: Iqaluit, Frobisher Bay, Lady Fraklin Island, Butterfly Bay, Cumberland Sound, Kerketen Island, Pangnirtung, Cumberland Peninsula, Hoare Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transboundary: David Strait, Western Greenland, Ilulissat, Sisimiut Coast, Kangerlussuaq
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct vessel-based tourism activities that would provide passengers with opportunities to engage sightseeing, zodiac cruising, wildlife watching, shore landings for guided interpretive walks, and organized community visits.
Timeline	13 days between July 10 th and October 1 st , 2026

As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by Adventure Canada in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- Sail to Nunavut on the cruise ship *Ocean Nova* with a maximum of 74 passengers and 13 crew members;
- Use of up to eight (8) zodiacs to facilitate shore landings, wildlife observations, guided hikes and excursions at:
 - Hudson Strait, Resolution Island, Frobisher Bay, Sir Charles Francis Hall Bay, Davis Strait, Killiniq, Akpaktok Island in Ungava Bay, Ungava Peninsula, Douglas Harbour, Digges Islands, Cape Wolstenholme, Lady Fraklin Island, Butterfly Bay, Cumberland Sound, Kerketen Island, Cumberland Peninsula, and Hoare Bay.
 - Community visits at Iqaluit, Kinngait, Kimmirut, and Pangnirtung
- Use of ten (10) sea kayaks for tourist excursions;
- Use of fuel onboard for zodiacs; and
- Management and treatment of sewage, greywater, and non-combustible and combustible wastes on board the cruise vessel according to Canadian legislation.

2. Inclusion or Exclusion to Scoping List

The NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government

agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

On or before November 11, 2025, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Qikiqtani Inuit Association	357885
Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	357884
Transport Canada	357886

a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Nova project proposal:

Qikiqtani Inuit Association

- QIA reminds the Proponent that any activities on Inuit Owned Lands, such as landings, require a separate filing an application for a land access authorization with QIA. QIA is pleased to note that the Proponent has consistently applied for and received such authorizations over the years.

Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

- Continue engagement with municipalities, HTOs, regional boards, and other interested parties.
- Integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and community knowledge into project planning.
- Identify opportunities for Inuit training, employment, and local procurement.
- Consider potential effects on traditional harvesting.
- Provide regular project updates to stakeholders.
- Consult with Makivvik regarding activities that may occur in Nunavik.

Transport Canada

- In the Arctic, the *Canada Shipping Act 2001*, the *Marine Liability Act*, the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act*, the Arctic Shipping and Pollution Prevention Regulations and the *Marine Transportation Security Act* combine to provide Canada’s operational regulatory regime governing marine safety, security, and environmental protection matters.

- The above Acts and Regulations combine to provide Canada’s operational and regulatory regime governing marine safety and environmental protection matters. Transport Canada administers these Acts and Regulations and is responsible for monitoring compliance and enforcing its requirements. Vessels in the Canadian Arctic are required to comply with the above acts and regulations as applicable. The vessel must also meet all the regulations of its flag state concerning vessel safety, registration, inspection, and competency requirements for the crew.
- Vessels need to comply with the Northern Canada Vessel Traffic Services Zone Regulations.
- TC has committed to improving awareness of cruise ship operators and has developed cruise ship guidelines that are intended to provide information on the requirements of Federal and Territorial government agencies during the planning phase of cruises and the subsequent Arctic voyages.
- Mariners are advised that the Polar Code, incorporated in the Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations contains specific requirements for protecting the marine environment and ecologically sensitive areas.
- Mariners are also advised that voluntary measures are in place to minimize risks of vessel collisions and potential impacts of underwater noise on beluga whales and bowhead whales in the two established Marine Protected Areas in Canada’s Western Arctic within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Vessels transiting in marine protected areas should consider following the voluntary measures to the extent possible and are reminded of the mandatory requirements in the Polar Code.
- For the 2026 cruise ship season, cruise ships will also be subject to discharge requirements that will be outlined in an upcoming Ship Safety Bulletin. Please review the latest SSB before transiting at TC website (<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins>).
- Recommended that the vessel obtain necessary permits from the relevant federal/territorial authorities, ex. Parks Canada, if intending to navigate in ecological sensitive areas.
- Recommends the vessel contact the communities in advance of their intended community stops.
- Vessel operators should be aware that the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has released the ISR Cruise Ship Management Plan to ensure industry operates with respect to Inuvialuit culture and land. [ISR Cruise Ship Management.pdf](#)
- Transport Canada recommends operators contact Territorial Land Claim Administrators to ensure the proper procedures are followed prior to arrival. Most Canadian Arctic communities’ welcome visitors, provided they are contacted well-in-advance and have a chance to prepare for visitors. Community members enjoy the opportunity to share their hospitality, culture and knowledge of the Arctic. Many Arctic communities still practice traditional activities; hunting, fishing and eating “country foods”. It is therefore important that visitors be respectful and culturally sensitive to these activities.

4. b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or Indigenous and Community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended

below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NuPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

Table 3: Summary of the Board’s Assessment of Factors s. 90 *NuPPAA*

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	<p>Geographic Area Affected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project spans a wide marine travel corridor across the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, with temporary coastal landing sites at locations such as Kinngait, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Hudson Strait, Cumberland Sound, Resolution Island, and Davis Strait. The route also extends into Nunavik and Western Greenland. No fixed project footprint is defined, as activities occur along the vessel route and limited shore access points. <p>Wildlife Habitats Affected</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activities occur within marine and coastal habitats supporting marine mammals (e.g., bowhead whale, beluga, seals, walrus) and seabird nesting areas. Landings are limited and non-intrusive, with no planned direct wildlife interaction. ▪ The proposed project may potentially affect animal calving and spawning areas as well as migratory patterns.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The project sails within the vicinity of many sensitive marine and coastal ecosystems, including the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area, Hudson Strait, Cumberland Sound, Resolution Island, Davis Strait and multiple National Wildlife Areas as well as Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Proponent has indicated that there are several known areas of historical, cultural and archaeological significance in the vicinity of the proposed project area.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed project takes place within the habitat of several species identified above and as such, may potentially affect wildlife, their habitat and their migratory patterns.

Factor	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As components of the proposed project activities are expected to occur in and near Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait, and Pangnirtung there is the potential for human populations and traditional land-use activities to be affected.
<p>The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A zone of influence of up to 100 km from the most potentially disruptive project activities was selected for the NIRB's assessment. ▪ Based on past evidence from projects with similar scope of activities, the potential adverse effects are well known, with potential for localized effects to the biophysical environment that are mitigable with due care. ▪ With adherence to the relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB, no significant residual effects are expected to occur.
<p>The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB have been designed with consideration for the potential for cumulative effects to result from the impacts of the project combined with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects. ▪ Cumulative impacts are anticipated to be low, with only minor incremental disturbance when combined with other vessel traffic and tourism activity, and no significant cumulative effects expected due to the project's limited scale and reversibility.
<p>Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.

Regulatory Requirements

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:

Acts and Regulations

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html>).
2. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html).
3. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.

4. The *Wildlife Act (Nunavut)* and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
5. The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-15.31/>).
6. The *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-12/>) and the *Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2017-286/index.html>).
7. The *Canada Shipping Act, 2001* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-10.15/>).
8. The *Marine Liability Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-0.7/>).
9. The *Marine Transportation Security Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/m-0.8/index.html>).
10. The *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* (<https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/N-22/>).

Other Applicable Guidelines

11. The *Guidance Document for Passenger Vessels Operating in the Canadian Arctic* (<https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/tp-tp13670-menu-2315.htm>).

VIEWS OF THE BOARD

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife and Species at Risk
Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to migratory and non-migratory birds, Species at Risk, terrestrial wildlife and their migratory routes from noise and visual disturbance associated with wildlife observation, and land-based tourism activities.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited due to infrequent and temporary activities and is limited due to infrequent activities within sensitive wildlife temporal periods. Project activities, such as transport of guest for shore-based activities, could potentially disturb caribou and migratory birds with home range sizes habituated to the project area. However, any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible and temporary only.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent proposes to minimize impacts to terrestrial wildlife by following the guidelines established by AECO and Canadian Wildlife Services. Pre-landing briefings on wildlife sensitivities and potential hazards, proper wildlife viewing techniques and safety and operation practices would be provided to staff and guests.

Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 7 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 8 through 11 Wildlife General – 13 through 15 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 16 through 18
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Valued Component	Marine mammals and marine habitat
Potential effects:	Potential adverse impacts to marine mammals and marine habitat resulting from increased noise and/or physical disturbance associated with vessel operation and small watercraft operations. Cumulative effects on marine wildlife and marine habitat could occur if multiple vessels are encountered in the same area.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is applicable to small areas within the Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and Davis Strait and the probability of impacts occurring is considered to be low, with potential adverse effects anticipated to be low in magnitude, infrequent in occurrence and reversible in nature. However, as noted cumulative effects on marine wildlife and marine habitat could occur if multiple vessels are encountered in the same area.
Mitigating Factors:	Measures should be taken to avoid encounters with other vessels, where possible, to minimize adverse impacts to the marine wildlife, particularly in critical habitat, calving areas, and narrow migration corridors. The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure the project activities do not negatively affect marine wildlife and habitat.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Water courses/Water bodies – 6 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 8 through 11 Wildlife – General – 13 and 14 Marine-based activities – 19 through 28 Vessel Craft-based Tourism – 29 through 31

Valued Component	Coastal landing sites and historical and cultural areas
Potential effects:	Planned shore visits to frequently visited historical and cultural sites have the potential for cumulative impacts to these areas, such as the creation of new trails or walking paths.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential impacts are applicable to a small set of sites to be visited throughout the South Baffin region and the probability of impacts occurring is considered to be low, with potential adverse effects anticipated to be low in magnitude, infrequent in occurrence and reversible in nature. The Proponent has also committed to provide pre-landing briefings to staff and guests on wildlife sensitivities and potential hazards.
Mitigating Factors:	The Board is recommending terms and conditions to minimize potential impacts.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 7 Wildlife – 13

Valued Component	Air quality
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Potential effects:	Potential adverse effects to air quality from emissions during the operations of the cruise ship <i>Ocean Nova</i> and zodiacs for shore excursions.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited due to infrequent and temporary activities, and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible.
Mitigating Factors:	The Proponent has committed to address the emissions during operations by using low-sulphur diesel and has fitted <i>Ocean Nova</i> with an exhaust gas purification system that effectively cleanses the exhaust produced by its engines.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Air Quality – 12

Valued Component	Public and traditional marine use activities
Potential effects:	No specific concerns or impacts to public and traditional marine use activities in the area have been identified; however, potential adverse impacts to the public and traditional marine-use activities may result from proposed vessel movement and tourism activities, as well as from planned shore-based activities.
Nature of Impacts:	Due to the proposed project’s proximity to the communities of Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Kinngait, and Pangnirtung there is the potential for adverse impacts to result from proposed project components overlapping with traditional land and marine use areas.
Mitigating Factors:	The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project activities are informed by available Inuit Qaujimaningit and that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities. Further, it is recommended that the Proponent engage with local residents, if possible and practical, regarding planned activities in the area.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Public Consultation – 34 Disturbance to Hunting Activities – 35

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Historical, cultural and archaeological sites
Potential effects:	The Proponent is proposing to visit known historical and archaeological sites, which could have negative impacts on the historical and archeological integrity of these areas from increased visitation.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for impacts is considered to be limited due to infrequent and temporary activities, and any resulting impacts would be expected to be reversible
Mitigating Factors:	The Board is recommending terms and conditions to ensure project activities are informed by available Inuit Qaujimaningit and to ensure the project activities do not negatively affect historical or heritage sites. Further, The Proponent is required to contact the Culture and Heritage Department when encountering any historical sites.

Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Heritage Sites – 32 and 33 Public Consultation – 34
Valued Component	Economic impact, local business, employment and hiring
Potential effects:	Potential positive impacts to the local community resulting from proposed shore-based activities including interactions with community members as local hiring for sightseeing and the potential for buying local crafts.
Nature of Impacts:	The potential for socio-economic impacts could be positive as tourists will encourage local business. The Proponent has committed to consult with local communities to get input on the cruise and mitigation measures. However, the Proponent currently has no plan to hire local people to assist with the cruise activities.
Mitigating Factors:	Board is recommending the Proponent continues to inform the communities of the cruise activities and ensure potential local hiring opportunities
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Vessel Craft-based Tourism – 29 through 31 Public Consultation – 34 Local Hiring – 36

Significant public concern:

Valued Component	Public concern
Potential effects:	No significant public concern was expressed during the public commenting period for this file; however, there is potential adverse effects to Inuit harvesting and marine mammals.
Nature of Impacts:	The increase of ships in the Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay could reduce mammals and disrupt Inuit harvesting. However, the potential for impacts is considered to be minimal as long as the Proponent follow the recommended terms and conditions.
Mitigating Factors:	Board is recommending terms and conditions to minimize impacts
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Public Consultation – 34 Disturbance to Hunting Activities – 36

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No specific issues have been identified associated with this project proposal.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent’s compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are

unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. Adventure Canada (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150903), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, September 9, 2025). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
9. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).
10. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.

11. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Air Quality

12. The Proponent shall eliminate unnecessary idling to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible.

Wildlife – General

13. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.

14. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.

15. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

16. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

17. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.

18. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

Marine-Based Activities

19. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed (e.g. Navy Board Inlet, Lancaster Sound, Milne Inlet, Bellot Strait).

20. The Proponent shall ensure that noise be kept to a minimum and shall refrain from making sharp or loud noises, blowing horns or whistles and shall maintain constant engine noise levels.

21. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.

22. The Proponent shall anchor large vessels, such as cruise ships at least 500 metres away from seabird and seaduck breeding colonies except Ivory gull breeding sites which requires a setback distance of 2,000 metres. Further, the Proponent shall ensure small launch vessels (e.g., zodiacs, kayaks) maintain a distance of 100 metres from the seabird colonies.

23. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels

ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.

24. When marine mammals appear to be trapped or disturbed by vessel movements, the Proponent shall implement appropriate measures to mitigate disturbance, including stoppage of movement until wildlife have moved away from the immediate area.
25. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
26. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 500 metres of a walrus haul out while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft.
27. The Proponent shall suspend all project activities should any dead fish or wildlife (both marine and terrestrial), or any injured wildlife be observed during any works or activities in and around the marine waters. Activities may only be resumed on the recommendation of the authorizing agencies.
28. The Proponent shall report all incidents, injuries or sightings of marine mammals to the appropriate authorizing agencies.

Vessel Craft-based Tourism

29. The Proponent shall ensure that all passengers (clients and staff) are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat protection. This should include pre-landing briefings on wildlife sensitivities and potential hazards, proper wildlife viewing techniques and safety practices. The Proponent shall monitor to ensure all clients and staff are compliant.
30. While on the cruise ship, vessel or small craft, the Proponent shall limit viewing time of each concentration of marine mammals and avoid loud noises and rapid movement in order to minimize disturbance.
31. The Proponent is strongly advised to provide sufficient advance notice communities where a landing is planned as part of project activities.

Heritage Sites

32. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

Other

34. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
35. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.

36. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, reports produced as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "*Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.
5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at <http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "*Safety in Polar Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~/_media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.
6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Iqaluit, phone: 867-975-7781 and Rankin Inlet, phone 867-645-8084).

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada’s “Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada”, available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services’ “Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut”, available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and “Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories”, available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet “Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs” available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board’s screening decision with respect to the Adventure Canada’s “Adventure Canada 2026 Expeditions – Ocean Nova”. The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated January 13, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehloak, Acting Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut
Appendix B: Archaeological and Palaeontological Resources Terms and Conditions for Land Use Permit Holders

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility²
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

¹ The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

² Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.

**APPENDIX B: ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND PALAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES TERMS AND
CONDITIONS FOR LAND USE PERMIT HOLDERS**



INTRODUCTION

The Department of Culture and Heritage (CH) routinely reviews land use applications sent to the Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. These terms and conditions provide general direction to the permittee/proponent regarding the appropriate actions to be taken to ensure the permittee/proponent carries out its role in the protection of Nunavut’s archaeological and palaeontological resources.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) The permittee/proponent shall have a professional archaeologist and/or palaeontologist perform the following **Functions** associated with the **Types of Development** listed below or similar development activities:

	Types of Development (See Guidelines below)	Function (See Guidelines below)
a)	Large scale prospecting	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment
b)	Diamond drilling for exploration or geotechnical purpose or planning of linear disturbances	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation
c)	Construction of linear disturbances, Extractive disturbances, Impounding disturbances and other land disturbance activities	Archaeological/Palaeontological Overview Assessment and/or Inventory and Documentation and/or Mitigation

Note that the above-mentioned functions require either a Nunavut Archaeologist Permit or a Nunavut Palaeontologist Permit. CH is authorized by way of the *Nunavut and Archaeological and Palaeontological Site Regulations*³ to issue such permits.

³ P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

- 2) The permittee/proponent shall not operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- 3) The permittee/proponent shall not remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- 4) The permittee/proponent shall immediately contact CH at (867) 934-2046 or (867) 975-5500 should an archaeological site or specimen, or a palaeontological site or fossil, be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity.
- 5) The permittee/proponent shall immediately cease any activity that disturbs an archaeological or palaeontological site encountered during the course of a land use operation until permitted to proceed with the authorization of CH.
- 6) The permittee/proponent shall follow the direction of CH in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition. If these conditions are attached to either a Class A or B Permit under the Territorial Lands Act Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada directions will also be followed.
- 7) The permittee/proponent shall provide all information requested by CH concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
- 8) The permittee/proponent shall make best efforts to ensure that all persons working under its authority are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts and palaeontological sites and fossils.
- 9) If a list of recorded archaeological and/or palaeontological sites is provided to the permittee/proponent by CH as part of the review of the land use application the permittee/proponent shall avoid the archaeological and/or palaeontological sites listed.
- 10) Should a list of recorded sites be provided to the permittee/proponent, the information is provided solely for the purpose of the proponent's land use activities as described in the land use application, and must otherwise be treated confidentially by the proponent.

Legal Framework

As stated in Article 33 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*:

Where an application is made for a land use permit in the Nunavut Settlement Area, and there are reasonable grounds to believe that there could be sites of archaeological importance on the lands affected, no land use permit shall be issued without written consent of the Designated Agency. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. [33.5.12]

Each land use permit referred to in Section 33.5.12 shall specify the plans and methods of archeological site protection and restoration to be followed by the permit holder, and any other conditions the Designated Agency may deem fit. [33.5.13]

Palaeontology and Archaeology

Under the *Nunavut Act*⁴, the federal government can make regulations for the protection, care and preservation of palaeontological and archaeological sites and specimens in Nunavut. Under the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*⁵, it is illegal to alter or disturb any palaeontological or archaeological site in Nunavut unless permission is first granted through the permitting process.

Definitions

As defined in the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*, the following definitions apply:

“archaeological site” means a place where an archaeological artifact is found.

“archaeological artifact” means any tangible evidence of human activity that is more than 50 years old and in respect of which an unbroken chain of possession or regular pattern of usage cannot be demonstrated, and includes a Denesuline archaeological specimen referred to in section 40.4.9 of the Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement).

“palaeontological site” means a site where a fossil is found.

“fossil” includes:

Fossil means the hardened or preserved remains or impression of previously living organisms or vegetation and includes:

- (a) natural casts;*
- (b) preserved tracks, coprolites and plant remains; and*
- (c) the preserved shells and exoskeletons of invertebrates and the preserved eggs, teeth and bones of vertebrates.*

Guidelines for Developers for the Protection of Archaeological Resources in the Nunavut Territory

(Note: Partial document only, complete document at: www.ch.gov.nu.ca/en/Archaeology.aspx)

Introduction

The following guidelines have been formulated to ensure that the impacts of proposed developments upon heritage resources are assessed and mitigated before ground surface altering activities occur. Heritage resources are defined as, but not limited to, archaeological and historical sites, burial grounds, palaeontological sites, historic buildings and cairns. Effective collaboration between the developer, the Department of Culture, and Heritage (CH), and the contract archaeologist(s) will ensure proper preservation of heritage resources in the Nunavut Territory. The roles of each are briefly described.

⁴ s. 51(1)

⁵ P.C. 2001-1111 14 June, 2001

CH is the Nunavut Government agency which oversees the protection and management of heritage resources in Nunavut, in partnership with land claim authorities, regulatory agencies, and the federal government. Its role in mitigating impacts of developments on heritage resources is as follows: to identify the need for an impact assessment and make recommendations to the appropriate regulatory agency; set the terms of reference for the study depending upon the scope of the development; suggest the names of qualified individuals prepared to undertake the study to the developer; issue an archaeologist or palaeontologist permit authorizing field work; assess the completeness of the study and its recommendations; and ensure that the developer complies with the recommendations.

The primary regulatory agencies that CH provides information and assistance to are the Nunavut Impact Review Board, for development activities proposed for Inuit Owned Lands (as defined in Section 1.1.1 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)*), and the Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, for development activities proposed for federal Crown Lands.

A developer is the initiator of a land use activity. It is the obligation of the developer to ensure that a qualified archaeologist or palaeontologist is hired to perform the required study and that provisions of the contract with the archaeologist or palaeontologist allow permit requirements to be met; i.e. fieldwork, collections management, artifact and specimen conservation, and report preparation. On the recommendation of the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist in the field and the Government of Nunavut, the developer shall implement avoidance or mitigative measures to protect heritage resources or to salvage the information they contain through excavation, analysis, and report writing. The developer assumes all costs associated with the study in its entirety.

Through his or her active participation and supervision of the study, the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist is accountable for the quality of work undertaken and the quality of the report produced. Facilities to conduct fieldwork, analysis, and report preparation should be available to this individual through institutional, agency, or company affiliations. Responsibility for the curation of objects recovered during field work while under study and for documents generated in the course of the study as well as remittance of artifacts, specimens and documents to the repository specified on the permit accrue to the contract archaeologist or palaeontologist. This individual is also bound by the legal requirements of the *Nunavut Archaeological and Palaeontological Sites Regulations*.

Types of Development

In general, those developments that cause concern for the safety of heritage resources will include one or more of the following kinds of surface disturbances. These categories, in combination, are comprehensive of the major kinds of developments commonly proposed in Nunavut. For any single development proposal, several kinds of these disturbances may be involved

- *Linear disturbances: including the construction of highways, roads, winter roads, transmission lines, and pipelines;*
- *Extractive disturbances: including mining, gravel removal, quarrying, and land filling;*

- *Impoundment disturbances: including dams, reservoirs, and tailings ponds;*
- *Intensive land use disturbances: including industrial, residential, commercial, recreational, and land reclamation work, and use of heritage resources as tourist developments.*
- *Mineral, oil and gas exploration: establishment of camps, temporary airstrips, access routes, well sites, or quarries all have potential for impacting heritage resources.*

Types of Studies Undertaken to Preserve Heritage Resources

Overview: An overview study of heritage resources should be conducted at the same time as the development project is being designed or its feasibility addressed. They usually lack specificity with regard to the exact location(s) and form(s) of impact and involve limited, if any, field surveys. Their main aim is to accumulate, evaluate, and synthesize the existing knowledge of the heritage of the known area of impact. The overview study provides managers with baseline data from which recommendations for future research and forecasts of potential impacts can be made. A Class I Permit is required for this type of study if field surveys are undertaken.

Reconnaissance: This is done to provide a judgmental appraisal of a region sufficient to provide the developer, the consultant, and government managers with recommendations for further development planning. This study may be implemented as a preliminary step to inventory and assessment investigations except in cases where a reconnaissance may indicate a very low or negligible heritage resource potential. Alternately, in the case of small-scale or linear developments, an inventory study may be recommended and obviate the need for a reconnaissance.

The main goal of a reconnaissance study is to provide baseline data for the verification of the presence of potential heritage resources, the determination of impacts to these resources, the generation of terms of reference for further studies and, if required, the advancement of preliminary mitigative and compensatory plans. The results of reconnaissance studies are primarily useful for the selection of alternatives and secondarily as a means of identifying impacts that must be mitigated after the final siting and design of the development project. Depending on the scope of the study, a Class 1 or Class 2 Permit is required for this type of investigation.

Inventory: A resource inventory is generally conducted at that stage in a project's development at which the geographical area(s) likely to sustain direct, indirect, and perceived impacts can be well defined. This requires systematic and intensive fieldwork to ascertain the effects of all possible and alternate construction components on heritage resources. All heritage sites must be recorded on Government of Nunavut Site Survey forms. Sufficient information must be amassed from field, library and archival components of the study to generate a predictive model of the heritage resource base that will:

- allow the identification of research and conservation opportunities;
- enable the developer to make planning decisions and recognize their likely effects on the known or predicted resources; and

- make the developer aware of the expenditures, which may be required for subsequent studies and mitigation. A Class 1 or 2 permit is required.

Assessment: At this stage, sufficient information concerning the numbers and locations of heritage resources will be available, as well as data to predict the forms and magnitude of impacts. Assessments provide information on the size, volume, complexity and content of a heritage resource, which is used to rank the values of different sites or site types given current archaeological knowledge. As this information will shape subsequent mitigation program(s), great care is necessary during this phase.

Mitigation: This refers to the amelioration of adverse impacts to heritage resources and involves the avoidance of impact through the redesign or relocation of a development or its components; the protection of the resource by constructing physical facilities; or, the scientific investigation and recovery of information from the resource by excavation or other method. The type(s) of appropriate mitigative measures are dictated by their viability in the context of the development project. Mitigation strategies must be developed in consultation with, and approved by, the Department of Culture and Heritage. It is important to note that mitigation activities should be initiated as far in advance of the construction of the development as possible.

Surveillance and monitoring: These may be required as part of the mitigation program.

Surveillance may be conducted during the construction phase of a project to ensure that the developer has complied with the recommendations.

Monitoring involves identification and inspection of residual and long-term impacts of a development (i.e. shoreline stability of a reservoir); or the use of impacts to disclose the presence of heritage resources, for example, the uncovering of buried sites during the construction of a pipeline.