



NIRB File No.: 26YN013  
NIRB Public Registry link:  
[www.nirb.ca/project/126347](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126347)  
NPC File No.: 151026

March 5, 2026

Isabelle Laurion  
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Québec City Québec G1K 9A9  
Canada  
Sent via email: [isabelle.laurion@inrs.ca](mailto:isabelle.laurion@inrs.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique's "Changing winters and ecosystem health of Arctic lakes" project proposal**

Dear Isabelle Laurion:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening<sup>1</sup> the project proposal.

**By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by March 26, 2026.**

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments 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

**The application can be viewed on NIRB's online registry [www.nirb.ca/project/126347](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126347) where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), or by fax.**

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

## Scope of proposal

<b>Location</b>	Qikiqtani region, Tugaat Lake, east of Milne Inlet approximately 110 kilometers southwest of Mittimatalik (Pond Inlet). The project lies within the Eclipse Sound Watershed
<b>Objective</b>	The objective of the proposed research program is to assess how changing winter conditions influence lake habitat, freshwater food webs, and Arctic char health at Tugaat Lake, including consideration of potential turbidity and metal exposure in light of nearby mining activities.
<b>Timeline</b>	May 20, 2026, to August 31, 2029, multi-year, seasonally recurring project

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- **Undertakings, Works and Activities**
  - The Proponent will conduct seasonal lake-based research at Tugaat Lake during the 2026-2027 field seasons, with up to three site visits per year (winter, spring and summer)
  - Activities will include deployment and retrieval of a temporary instrument mooring anchored with a rock bag, ice drilling using a handheld auger and collection of water and biological samples.
  - Arctic char harvested through regular Inuit subsistence fishing will be temporarily sampled for scientific measurements and tissue analysis prior to being returned for consumption. No fish will be harvested specifically for research.
  - Equipment will include two snowmobiles (winter), one helicopter (summer access), one zodiac boat with Yamaha outboard engine (summer), and a portable generator.
- **Fuel & Equipment Servicing**
  - Fuel will be used for snowmobile, boat and helicopter operations.
  - Up to 800 litres of fuel will be stored during winter for snowmobile refueling and will be stored in approved containers. No long-term fuel storage is proposed.
  - Up to twelve 12-kg of propane cylinders will be used during winter to keep tent warm.
  - Small volumes of preservatives (Lugol's solution, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, HCl, H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) will be transported in pre-loaded sample containers. No bulk chemical mixing is proposed on site.
- **Camp**
  - Temporary field camps will be established during site visits. No permanent infrastructure is proposed.
- **Waste Management**
  - Minor quantities non-hazardous waste will be generated
  - All waste will be removed from site and disposed of in accordance with applicable community and HTO directives.

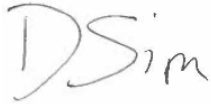
### *Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List*

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.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 867-983-4618 or [dsim@nirb.ca](mailto:dsim@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Dustin Sim  
Screening Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc:                   Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Nidhi Singh, Nunavut Water Board  
Abid Jan, Nunavut Water Board  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spemcer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Pond Inlet Hunters and Trappers Organization