



Calvin Ehaloak

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

Mosha Cote

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

Caroline Whittle

Director, Heritage
Department of Culture and Heritage (GN-CH)
Iqaluit, NU
By email: cwhittle@gov.nu.ca;
apollock2@gov.nu.ca

Maryse Mahy

Ecologist Team Leader
Parks Canada (PC)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: Maryse.Mahy@pc.gc.ca;
Pc.Nunavut-ImpactAssessment.pc@canada.ca

Jared Ottenhof

Director, Qikiqtani Nunalirijikkut
(Lands and Resource Management)
Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA)
Iqaluit, Nunavut
By email: jottenhof@qia.ca; jnakoolak@qia.ca; JSimic@qia.ca

Erik Sperling

Stanford University
450 Jane Stanford Way, Building 320
Stanford, California 94305 USA
By email: esper@stanford.edu

Dear Calvin Ehaloak, Mosha Cote, Caroline Whittle, Maryse Mahy, Jared Ottenhof, and Erik Sperling:

RE: NPC File # 151082 [Testing the impact of early land plants on the Earth system]

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

1. **Primary Land Use:** Scientific Research
2. **Project summary description:** This project expands on work initiated in 2023 at the Cape Phillips and Bathurst Island Formations near Grant Point on Bathurst Island, within Qausuittuq National Park (Parks Canada Agency Permit # QAUNP-2023-45502). The 2026 field program will investigate Silurian–Devonian shallow- and deep-water formations in the southern Queen Elizabeth Islands, primarily on Cornwallis Island near Read Bay, with additional work on Somerset and Bathurst Islands. The team will collect stratigraphic, geochemical, and fossil data to study how early land plants influenced Earth's climate, nutrient cycles, and marine environments. Samples will be analyzed at partner universities, providing a complete record of terrestrial and marine changes during this critical evolutionary interval.
3. Related NPC File No: 149950; Related NIRB File No: N/A
4. **Location:** Qikiqtani Region; [Read Bay, Twilight Creek, Signal Hill and Cape Martyr near Resolute Bay, Somerset and Bathurst Islands].

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) can be accessed online using the link below.

The NPC has completed its review of the above noted project proposal. It conforms to the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan (NBRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, H, and I of the NBRLUP.

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=151082>

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 above noted project proposal as submitted. 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 the initials 'S.A.' with a stylized flourish.

Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission