



NIRB File: 26YN016

link: www.nirb.ca/project/126400

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 151082

April 27, 2026

To: The Honourable Julie Dabrusin
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON

Sent via email: julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Stanford University’s “Testing the impact of early land plants on the Earth system” Project Proposal, North Baffin Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

On March 9, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening¹ of Stanford University’s (SU) “Testing the impact of early land plants on the Earth system” project proposal and after completing the required process, the NIRB determined² that **a review of the project is not required** and recommended specific terms and conditions³.

The attached Screening Decision Report provides the regulatory framework, scope of proposal and Board’s assessment process, public engagement, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Additional information on the project can be viewed on the NIRB’s public registry at the link at the top of this letter.

The NIRB look forward to receiving a response from the Minister, and any questions on the Board’s assessment process or the Screening Decision Report can be directed to the NIRB’s Director, Operations, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

1 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 section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*

2 Pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

3 Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

Sincerely,



Albert Ehaloak

Acting Chairperson for Screening Panel
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 26YN016 (April 27, 2026)

cc: The Honourable Brian Koonoo, Minister of Culture and Heritage
The Honourable David Akeagok, Minister of Nunavut Arctic College
Olayuk Akesuk, President, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Lootie Toomasie, Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board
Maryse Mahy, Parks Canada
Caroline Whittle, Department of Culture and Heritage
Adam Pollock, Department of Culture and Heritage
Ashely Piskor, Department of Culture and Heritage
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Erik Sperling, Stanford University