



NIRB File No.: 26YN029  
NIRB Public Registry link: [www.nirb.ca/project/126454](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126454)  
NPC File No.: 151149

May 14, 2026

Caroline Bouchard  
Université Laval  
481 Rue Champlain  
Québec, QC G1V 0A6

Sent via email: [caroline.bouchard@bio.ulaval.ca](mailto:caroline.bouchard@bio.ulaval.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Université Laval's "Iqaluit Cod Derby Science Project" proposal**

Dear Caroline Bouchard:

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 June 4, 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/126454](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126454) 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 (South Baffin) region, within marine waters of Frobisher Bay near Iqaluit.
<b>Objective</b>	The Proponent intends to study the Frobisher Bay Arctic cod population, focusing on size structure, diet, and genetics to improve understanding of its ecology and health.
<b>Timeline</b>	May to July 2026

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

- Working with local community members during the Iqaluit Cod Derby to collect up to 50 Arctic cod samples;
- Shipping frozen Arctic cod to Université Laval for laboratory analyses.

### *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 1-866-233-3033 ext. 555 or [mbeattie@nirb.ca](mailto:mbeattie@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Beattie  
Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubesinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services  
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada