



NIRB Application for Screening #126475

Namminiqurniq Nunavut Ecosystems Field Course

Application Type: New

Project Type: Scientific Research

Application Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Period of operation: from 2026-09-28 to 2027-03-31

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DETAILS

Non-technical project proposal description

English: Introduction to Ecosystems and Environmental Processes: Applications is offered through the Namminiqsurniq Professional Project Administrator Program (NPPA) in partnership with Royal Roads University for Nunavut Inuit learners hired through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada's Nunavut Regional Office in Iqaluit as part of a six-month full-time learning program supporting Devolution-related employment. This course provides learners with applied ecological and environmental monitoring skills grounded in both Inuit knowledge and Western science. Learners will explore terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems surrounding Iqaluit through land-based learning, scientific measurement, and Inuit knowledge indicators. The course examines Inuit self-determination in research and monitoring through Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami's National Inuit Strategy on Research and explores how Inuit-led and community-driven approaches can support the management of Nunavut's lands, waters, wildlife, and natural resources. A significant portion of the course is field-based and includes hands-on training in ecological monitoring techniques such as water quality assessment (separate from the scope of the current proposal), vegetation sampling, snow and ice measurements, wildlife observation and harvest monitoring, and oceanographic data collection. Some field activities are planned within Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park and Katannilik Territorial Park, with two one-week field courses scheduled for September 2026 and March 2027, weather permitting.

French: Introduction aux processus écosystémiques et environnementaux : Ce cours est offert aux personnes inuites du Nunavut embauchées par le bureau régional du ministère des Relations Couronne Autochtones et Affaires du Nord Canada, situé à Iqaluit, au Nunavut. L'inscription au cours se fait par l'entremise du Programme d'administration professionnelle de projet Namminiqsurniq, lequel est offert en partenariat avec l'Université Royal Roads dans le cadre d'un programme d'apprentissage à temps plein de six mois pour favoriser l'embauche dans des postes se rattachant au transfert des responsabilités. Le plan de cours comporte l'enseignement de compétences appliquées en veille écologique et environnementale fondé à la fois sur les connaissances inuites et sur la science occidentale. On y explore les écosystèmes qui entourent Iqaluit — à savoir, la terre, l'eau douce et l'écosystème marin — en ayant recours aux travaux sur le terrain, aux techniques de mesure scientifique et aux indicateurs de connaissances inuites. Il comporte aussi un examen de l'autodétermination inuite en recherche et en veille aux termes de la Stratégie nationale inuite sur la recherche de l'Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, et des possibilités qu'offrent les approches sous direction inuite et locale quant à la gestion des terres, des eaux, de la faune et des ressources naturelles du Nunavut. Une part importante du cours consiste en activités de terrain qui comprennent une formation pratique aux techniques de veille écologique, telles que l'évaluation de la qualité de l'eau, le prélèvement de végétation, les mesures se rattachant à la neige et à la glace, l'observation de la faune, le suivi de récoltes, ainsi que la collecte de données océanographiques. Certaines de ces activités doivent se dérouler dans le parc territorial Sylvia Grinnell et le parc territorial Katannilik; deux de celles-ci s'étendent sur une semaine, l'une en septembre 2026 et l'autre en mars 2027, si la météo s'y prête.

[illegible]

Activities

Location	Activity Type	Land Status	Site history	Site archaeological or paleontological value	Proximity to the nearest communities and any protected areas
General areas travelled by boat/snowmobile in September 2026 and March 2027 for field course.	Sampling sites	Crown	N/A	N/A	Land-based sampling will be conducted near Iqaluit, and within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks in late September 2026. Land-based sampling will include quadratic sampling of vegetation recording visual observations and using photographs. No soil disturbance will take place and disturbance to vegetation will be limited. Care will be taken to avoid any potential archeological sites (e.g., tent rings).Vegetation quadrats: Up to 30 one-metre square quadrats will be placed
General areas travelled by boat/snowmobile in September 2026 and March 2027 for field course.	Sampling sites	Inuit Owned Surface Lands	N/A	N/A	Land-based sampling will be conducted near Iqaluit, and within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks in late September 2026. Land-based sampling will include quadratic sampling of vegetation recording visual observations and using photographs. No soil disturbance will take place and disturbance to vegetation will be limited. Care will be taken to avoid any potential archeological sites

					(e.g., tent rings).Vegetation quadrats: Up to 30 one-metre square quadrats will be placed
General areas travelled by boat/snowmobile in September 2026 and March 2027 for field course.	Sampling sites	Marine	N/A	N/A	Sampling will be conducted near Iqaluit, and within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks. Marine sampling will be conducted with plankton tows in Frobisher Bay and Arctic char stomach content sampling in Frobisher Bay, Nungaarut, and Sylvia Grinnell.Plankton tows: Up to 5 plankton tows will be made in Frobisher Bay in September 2026.Arctic char harvest over duration of course: Frobisher Bay <75; Sylvia Grinnell River <50; Nunngarut <50; Jordan River <50.
General areas travelled by boat/snowmobile in September 2026 and March 2027 for field course.	Sampling sites	Crown	N/A	N/A	Land-based sampling in winter will be conducted near Iqaluit, and within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks. A limited number of snow and ice measurements will be taken to practice sampling techniques.Snow measurements: Up to 30 snow measurements (will be made in March 2027).Ice measurements: Up to 10 ice measurements will be made in March 2027.
General areas travelled by boat/snowmobile in	Sampling sites	Inuit Owned Surface Lands	N/A	N/A	Land-based sampling in winter will be conducted

September 2026 and March 2027 for field course.					near Iqaluit, and within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks. A limited number of snow and ice measurements will be taken to practice sampling techniques. Snow measurements: Up to 30 snow measurements (will be made in March 2027). Ice measurements: Up to 10 ice measurements will be made in March 2027.
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Community Involvement & Regional Benefits

Community	Name	Organization	Date Contacted
Iqaluit	HTO Manager	Amaruq Hunters and Trappers Organization	2026-07-21

Authorizations

Indicate the areas in which the project is located:

South Baffin

Authorizations

Regulatory Authority	Authorization Description	Current Status	Date Issued / Applied	Expiry Date
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Arctic Region Educational Licence	Applied, Decision Pending		
Nunavut Research Institute	Exempt for educational activities	Active		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	GN Wildlife, Exempt for scope of activities	Active		
Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment	GN Territorial Parks, Park Use Permit Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks	Applied, Decision Pending		
Nunavut Water Board	No approval for water use or waste deposit is required based on scope of activities	Active		
Hunters and Trappers Associations/Organizations	Support letter	Active	2026-08-05	
Qikiqtani Inuit Association	Land Use Permit	Applied, Decision Pending		

Project transportation types

Transportation Type	Proposed Use	Length of Use
Air	Instructor will travel from Prince Edward Island for two one week periods. 1-2 students will travel for two one week periods from Sanikiluaq and/or Montreal.	
Water	Up to 4 vessels <30' in length Vessels will be used on 2 days in late September 2026 to transport students from Iqaluit to areas for Arctic char fishing and plankton trawls in Frobisher Bay.	
Land	Up to 20 snowmobiles <1200cc Snowmobiles will be used by outfitter/students for 3-4 days to transport students to areas surrounding Frobisher Bay and Iqaluit (e.g., Nungaarut and Jordan River) in March 2027.	

Project accomodation types

Community

Material Use

Equipment to be used (including drills, pumps, aircraft, vehicles, etc)

Equipment Type	Quantity	Size - Dimensions	Proposed Use
Vessels	4	<30'	Vessels will be used on 2 of the 5 days in September 2026 to transport students from Iqaluit to areas for Arctic char fishing and plankton trawls in Frobisher Bay.
Snowmobile	20	<1200cc	Snowmobiles will be used by outfitter/students for 3-4 days to transport students to areas surrounding Frobisher Bay and Iqaluit (e.g., Nungaarut and Jordan River) in March 2027.

Detail Fuel and Hazardous Material Use

Detail fuel material use:	Fuel Type	Number of containers	Container Capacity	Total Amount	Units	Proposed Use
Gasoline	fuel	10	20	200	Liters	Up to 10 20L jerry cans will be used to transport spare gasoline for boats and snowmobiles during on the land activities in late September 2026 and March 2027 for up to 6 days total across both time periods.

Water Consumption

Daily amount (m3)	Proposed water retrieval methods	Proposed water retrieval location
0	N/A. All water consumed will be brought from the City of Iqaluit.	N/A. All water consumed will be brought from the City of Iqaluit.

Waste

Waste Management

Project Activity	Type of Waste	Projected Amount Generated	Method of Disposal	Additional treatment procedures
Other	Non-Combustible wastes	<1 cubic metre across all field activities	All solid waste will be brought back to Iqaluit and disposed of in the landfill.	N/A
Other	Sewage (human waste)	<1 cubic metre across all field activities	Within Katannilik Territorial Park and Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park outhouses will be used by students/outfitters for human waste. In areas without outhouses human waste will be buried over 150m away from water sources.	N/A

Environmental Impacts:

The proposed field course near Iqaluit will involve travel by boat during open-water conditions and snowmobile during winter, as well as Arctic char sampling, plankton sampling, and non-invasive vegetation sampling using quadrats. These activities have the potential to result in minor, localized, and temporary environmental effects. Mitigation Measures Travel by boat and snowmobile: -Use established travel routes - Minimize travel speeds near shorelines, wildlife, and bird habitat. -Carry spill response supplies and follow fuel handling procedures to prevent contamination. -Reduce unnecessary travel and idling. -Coordinate field activities to minimize the number of trips required. Arctic char sampling -Follow all applicable fisheries licences and regulations Vegetation sampling using quadrats -Limit foot traffic and avoid repeated trampling within sampling areas. -Avoid rare, sensitive, or culturally important plant communities. Designated environmental and wildlife protected areas (Territorial Parks) -Obtain all required permits and approvals before field activities. -Comply with park management plans, access restrictions, and seasonal closures.

Additional Information

SECTION A1: Project Info

SECTION A2: Allweather Road

SECTION A3: Winter Road

SECTION B1: Project Info

SECTION B2: Exploration Activity

SECTION B3: Geosciences

SECTION B4: Drilling

SECTION B5: Stripping

SECTION B6: Underground Activity

SECTION B7: Waste Rock

SECTION B8: Stockpiles

SECTION B9: Mine Development

SECTION B10: Geology

SECTION B11: Mine

SECTION B12: Mill

SECTION C1: Pits

SECTION D1: Facility

SECTION D2: Facility Construction

SECTION D3: Facility Operation

SECTION D4: Vessel Use

SECTION E1: Offshore Survey

SECTION E2: Nearshore Survey

SECTION E3: Vessel Use

SECTION F1: Site Cleanup

SECTION G1: Well Authorization

SECTION G2: Onland Exploration

SECTION G3: Offshore Exploration

SECTION G4: Rig

SECTION H1: Vessel Use

SECTION H2: Disposal At Sea

SECTION I1: Municipal Development

Description of Existing Environment: Physical Environment

The project is occurring within the City of Iqaluit, within Katannilik Territorial Park and Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park and in Frobisher Bay.

Description of Existing Environment: Biological Environment

The project is occurring within municipal boundaries, territorial parks, and Frobisher Bay. The main purpose of the activities is to teach Inuit employees of CIRNAC in a training program to learn sampling techniques used in ecological research and to practice analysis of sample data. A strong focus of the program is integrating respect and care for the land (Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq) and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on Nunavut's ecosystems. Care will be taken to avoid disturbance (e.g., soil or vegetation disturbance) with a focus on passive sampling methods or sampling through harvested animals (e.g., Arctic char stomach contents).

Description of Existing Environment: Socio-economic Environment

Iqaluit's socio-economic environment is defined by its role as the capital of Nunavut and largest population. It features a dual economy—a modern public-sector hub coexisting with traditional Inuit practices—while facing critical challenges. Program activities are being conducted by new Inuit employees of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada who are taking part in the Introduction to Ecosystems and Environmental Processes: Applications is offered through the Namminiqurniq Professional Project Administrator Program in partnership with Royal Roads University. Through the program students will learn about the socioeconomic environment in Nunavut and how they can contribute positively to the overall environment in Nunavut.

Miscellaneous Project Information

15 personnel, six days on site, and 90 person-days apply to the Project as a whole. Up to 3 days will be spent on site in late September 2026 and up to 3 days will be spent on site in March 2027. For all fishing activities that are a part of the course Arctic char would be harvested by Inuit only who make up the entirety of the Namminiqurniq Professional Project Administrator Program cohort. The fish are harvested specifically for the course and an application has been submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Arctic Region under an Educational Licence. All fish caught will be used for subsistence purposes after non-destructive sampling (stomach contents and qualitative meat colour/quality) and will be distributed among the community. Under Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Arctic Region Educational Licence the following number of char have been requested to be harvested: Frobisher Bay (rod and net fishing) - Less than or equal to 75 Arctic char over the duration of the course Sylvia Grinnell River (rod fishing) - Less than or equal to 50 Arctic char over the duration of the course Nunngarut (rod fishing) - Less than or equal to 50 Arctic

char over the duration of the course Jordan River (rod fishing) - Less than or equal to 50 Arctic char over the duration of the course. Additional sampling information: -Plankton tows: Up to 5 plankton tows will be made in Frobisher Bay in September 2026. -Vegetation quadrats: Up to 30 one-metre square quadrats will be temporarily placed on top of vegetation in September 2026. Sampling will avoid repeated trampling within sampling areas and will avoid rare, sensitive, or culturally important plant communities. -Snow measurements: Up to 30 snow measurements (will be made in March 2027. -Ice measurements: Up to 10 ice measurements will be made in March 2027. -Plankton from up to 5 plankton samples may be retained and transported outside the field area and assessed microscopically at the Nunavut Research Institute in Iqaluit. No samples will be preserved or sent to a laboratory for analysis. -Fish harvested from fish samples will be retained for subsistence purposes and distributed within Iqaluit. No other parts of the sampling will be retained, preserved, transported outside the field area, or sent to a laboratory for analysis. -Vegetation will be sampled non-invasively with quadrat sampling, with only information recorded in the field and photos taken of quadrats. No vegetation will be retained, preserved, transported outside the field area, or sent to a laboratory for analysis. No snow or ice samples will be retained, preserved, transported outside the field area, or sent to a laboratory for analysis. The learners who are part of the Namminiqsurniq Professional Project Administrator Program are also employees of the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) in the Nunavut Regional Office. Any water quality assessment that is part of this course will be under existing licences and permits through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada and are meant as a demonstration for learners under this program through their colleagues in the Waters Department at CIRNAC. The demonstrations will take place during the timeframe of the course as learners/employees not currently in Iqaluit will be coming to Iqaluit for the field course. The sample size and water type will be within the current limits of licences and permits under Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada in Iqaluit and I am leaving any demonstrations during the field course at their discretion to ensure all demonstrations remain within their current authorizations. For clarity, this activity is in the overall project overview as a demonstration would be part of the course, but it is already separately licensed/permitted.

Identification of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

-Potential disturbance of vegetation and soil while making visual observations of vegetation using quadrants. Proposed mitigation measures: Care will be taken to avoid areas susceptible to disturbance (e.g., loose soil or banks) and to use existing trail systems in territorial parks. -Potential for fuel spills for boat/snowmobiles. Proposed mitigation measures: Jerry cans used to transport fuel will be checked for loose caps and fuel will only be transported and used with jerry cans in good condition. -Potential disturbance of wildlife while travelling (boat/snowmobile) or during sampling. Proposed mitigation measures: Care will be taken by students/instructor to avoid observed wildlife while travelling or during sampling in territorial parks.

Cumulative Effects

Many of the project areas (e.g., Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park) are used by community members for camping and fishing. Contributions to cumulative effects are expected to be minimal as most activities are designed to be low disturbance and integrate principles around respect and care for the land and areas will be used to avoid disruption to harvesters/land users.

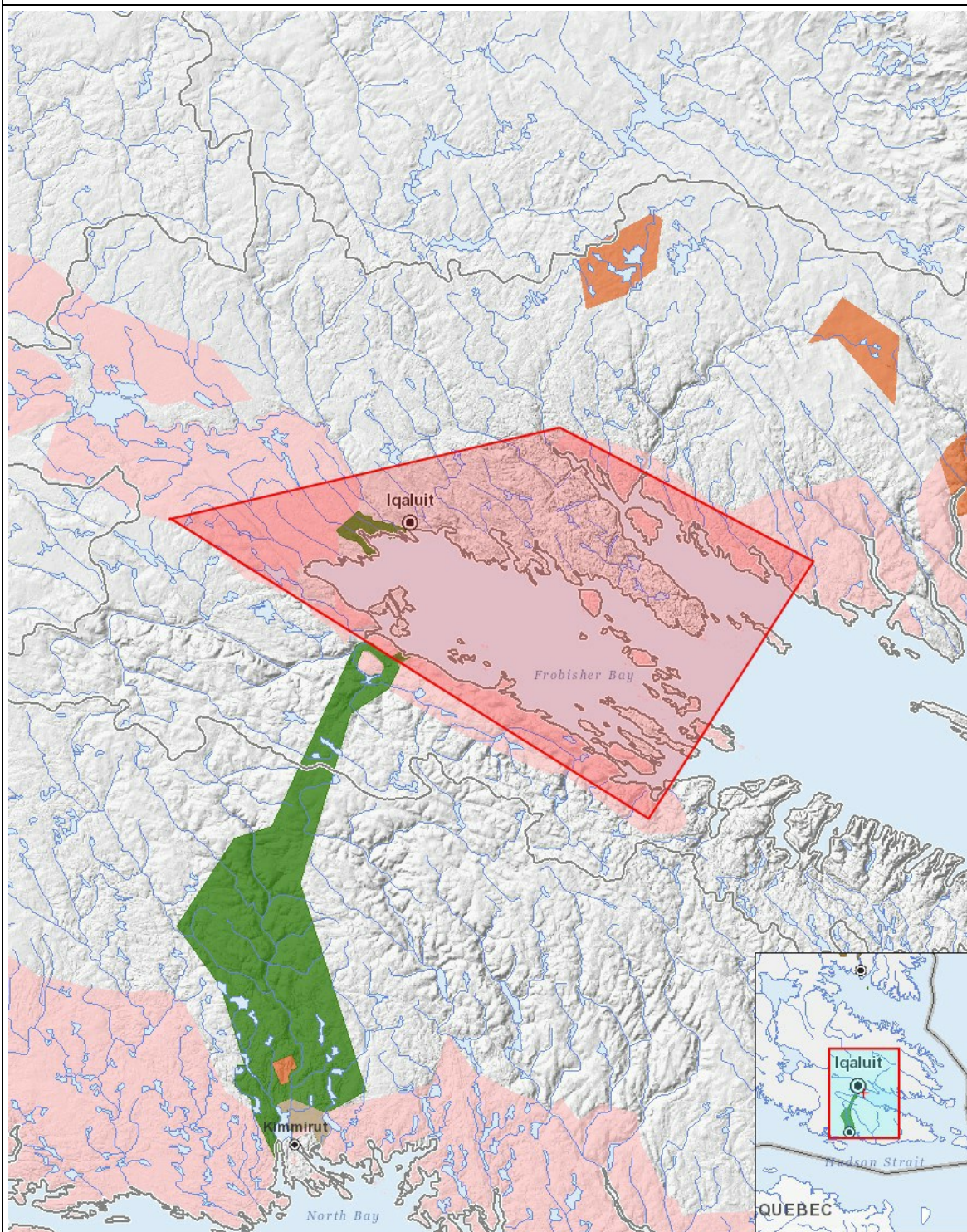
Impacts

Identification of Environmental Impacts

	PHYSICAL	Designated environmental areas	Ground stability	Permafrost	Hydrology / Limnology	Water quality	Climate conditions	Eskers and other unique or fragile landscapes	Surface and bedrock geology	Sediment and soil quality	Tidal processes and bathymetry	Air quality	Noise levels	BIOLOGICAL	Vegetation	Wildlife, including habitat and migration patterns	Birds, including habitat and migration patterns	Aquatic species, incl. habitat and migration/spawning	Wildlife protected areas	SOCIO-ECONOMIC	Archaeological and cultural historic sites	Employment	Community wellness	Community infrastructure	Human health
Construction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Operation		M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	M	M		M	M	M	M	M		-	P	-	-	-
Decommissioning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

(P = Positive, N = Negative and non-mitigatable, M = Negative and mitigatable, U = Unknown)

Project Location



List of Project Geometries

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1 polygon | General areas travelled by boat/snowmobile in September 2026 and March 2027 for field course. |
|-----------|---|