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June 27, 2013

BY-ELECTRONIC MAIL: info@nirb.ca

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Nunavut Impact Review Board
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Cambridge Bay, NU
X0A 0B0

Re: Notice of Part 4 Screening for Natural Resources Canada’s “Natural Hazards in Baffin Bay” project proposal – NIRB File # 13YN021

Dear Kelli Gillard,

On June 6th 2013, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) initiated a Part 4 Screening for Natural Resources Canada’s “Natural Hazards in Baffin Bay” project proposal and invited interested parties to provide comments. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) Department of Lands and Resources would like to thank the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for providing the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan or proponent) is currently proposing to conduct a number of different surveys in Baffin Bay utilizing the Canadian Coast Guard vessel the *Hudson* from August 14 to September 17, 2013. The major research goals of the expedition would be to:

1. Investigate earthquake activity in Baffin Bay;
2. Investigate how stable the seabed is in Baffin Bay;
3. Investigate natural leakage of buries oil and gas deposits at the seabed;
4. Understand how the seabed is being changed by ocean currents and by icebergs that drag along the bottom; and,
5. Look for the presence of unique seabed habitats that may be important for fish

Notably, the proponent plans to use varied equipment to conduct the research including: a piston sediment corer, a Seabed camera system, a CTD and Niskin water sampler, a 3.5 kHz echosounder, and a multibeam echosounder

Although the NIRB’s standard terms and conditions would undoubtedly be applied should the project proceed we still have the following comments to share to ensure that the environment is protected and that the land users in the region are respected.

