



NIRB File No.: 15YN037

September 11, 2017

To: The Honourable Catherine McKenna
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: ec.ministre-minister.ec@canada.ca and catherine.mckenna@parl.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Parks Canada's "Visitor Experience at the Erebus Wreck Site" Project Proposal, Kitikmeot Region

Dear Ms. McKenna:

On July 12, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Parks Canada's (PC) "Visitor Experience at the Erebus Wreck Site" project proposal directly from Parks Canada pursuant to section 167 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA). The NIRB notes that the proposed project is located within the HMS Erebus and HMS Terror National Historic Site and pursuant to subsection 70(1) of the NuPPAA, the Nunavut Planning Commission conformity determination process does not apply.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 NuPPAA, the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal. Due to the proposal containing activities that were sufficiently related to previously assessed activities under NIRB file number **15YN037**, the NIRB viewed this project proposal as an amendment to the previously screened project and assigned this proposal with this previous file number.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Parks Canada's "Visitor Experience at the Erebus Wreck Site" project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

¹ Subsection 70(1) states: This Part and the broad planning policies, priorities and objectives, the specific planning objectives and any land use plan, established under this Part, do not apply in respect of a park that has been established or to a historic place that has been designated under the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and is administered by the Parks Canada Agency.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated September 11, 2017 to the responsible Minister. The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Visitor Experience at the Erebus Wreck Site
- NIRB File No.: 15YN037
- Application No.: 125166

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Acting Director, Technical Services, Kelli Gillard at (867) 983-4619 or kgillard@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 15YN037 (September 11, 2017)