



**NIRB File No.:** 14YN001  
**NPC File No.:** 148644

December 5, 2017

Alana Vigna  
Senior Planner  
Nunavut Planning Commission  
P.O. Box 2101  
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

*Sent via email:* [avigna@nunavut.ca](mailto:avigna@nunavut.ca)

**Re: NIRB Opinion as to whether Ocean Networks Canada, University of Victoria's "Enhancing Capacity for Northern-Led Monitoring of Snow, Ice, and Ocean Conditions" Project Proposal is Exempt from the Requirement for Screening**

Dear Alana Vigna:

On November 29, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission) for Ocean Networks Canada, University of Victoria's "Enhancing Capacity for Northern-Led Monitoring of Snow, Ice, and Ocean Conditions" (the Project Proposal). The NPC identified the following works and activities associated with the Project Proposal:

1. Scientific Research: Increase northern capacity and participation in collection, analysis, and use of scientific data to understand the connection to local and Indigenous Knowledge. This objective will be achieved through the following five goals:
  - a. Development and implementation of a course in Instrument Technology in the Environmental Technology Program (ETP) offered through Nunavut Arctic College (NAC). One topic in the course will cover direct training in data collection methods for the Canadian Rangers Ocean Watch (CROW) program (See C).
  - b. Development of direct data acquisition and archival capability in the Ocean Networks Canada (ONC) Oceans 2.0 data management system for the CROW program in partnership with Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).
  - c. Implementation of community-based monitoring programs for water properties (CROW), snow depth, and ice thickness linked with local observations and Indigenous Knowledge in the communities of Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, and Cambridge Bay (building on the existing Safe Passage (ONC/POLAR) and CROW (DFO/DND) programs).

- d. Extension of the Ocean Sense: Local Observations, Global Connections high school education program (currently active in Cambridge Bay, supported by ONC) to Kugluktuk and Gjoa Haven, including involving students in data collection. Local engagement will be supported through a Youth Science Ambassador who will act as a mentor and coordinator for youth involved in the project.
  - e. Design and implementation of community-oriented data products that address local priorities and requirements for dissemination of water, snow, and ice data. All data will be freely available through Oceans 2.0, Ocean Data View, and Polar Data Catalogue.
- 2. Associated NPC File#: 148392 – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch (NIRB File#: 14YN001); 148440 – Cambridge Bay Ocean Observatory (NIRB File#: 12YN034)
  - 3. Location: Kitikmeot Region; Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and surrounding areas

As a preliminary matter, the NIRB reviewed the documentation provided on the NPC's public registry for this file as well as the documentation posted to the NIRB's public registry associated with project proposal NIRB File No.: 14YN001 which was previously screened by the Board in February 2017.<sup>1</sup> After carefully comparing the scope of the proposed updates to the scientific research licence for the current Project Proposal with the scope of works and activities screened by the NIRB in File No.: 14YN001, the Board has concluded that there are NO new physical works or activities included in the Project Proposal, nor are there any other significant modifications to the scope of the project as previously screened by the NIRB and set out in the Board's February 27, 2017 Screening Decision Report for NIRB File No.: 14YN001.

Consequently, the Board has concluded that this Project Proposal is exempt from the requirement for further screening by the NIRB. Accordingly, the NIRB does not require any further assessment of the Project Proposal and the Board recommends that the Project Proposal now be forwarded to the respective authorizing agencies for their consideration of the authorizations required to carry out the project.

A copy of the NIRB's Screening Decision Report for File No. 14YN001, which continues to apply to this Project Proposal, has been enclosed for your review and can be accessed online from the NIRB's public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: CROW – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch
- NIRB File No.: 14YN001
- Application No.: 125034

Should you have any questions or require additional clarification regarding the Board's conclusion that the Ocean Networks Canada, University of Victoria's "Enhancing Capacity for Northern-Led Monitoring of Snow, Ice, and Ocean Conditions" project proposal is exempt from the requirement for further screening by the NIRB, please contact the undersigned directly at [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca) or (867) 983-4619.

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<sup>1</sup> NIRB File No. 14YN001 Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Institute of Ocean Sciences' "CROW – Canadian Ranger Ocean Watch"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelli Gillard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kelli" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gillard".

Kelli Gillard B.Sc., P.Ag.  
Acting Director, Technical Services  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: S. Kim Juniper, Ocean Networks Canada, University of Victoria  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 14YN001 (February 27, 2017)