



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 18YN013

Project Name: The “Biodiversity and Microhabitat Association of Terrestrial Arthropods on Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, in the High Arctic” project

Proponent Name: McGill University

Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani Region

Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125286

Comment Deadline: **April 30, 2018**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Biodiversity and Microhabitat Association of Terrestrial Arthropods on Axel Heiberg Island, Nunavut, in the High Arctic” project is located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 382 kilometres (km) northwest from Grise Fiord and approximately 528 kilometres (km) northeast from Resolute Bay. The Proponent intends to establish a baseline understanding of High Arctic microhabitat associations of terrestrial arthropods on Axel Heiberg Island across both spatial and temporal gradients. The program is proposed to take place from July to September 2018 and again in 2019, with the goal of becoming a long-term annual monitoring program. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Accommodation and use of facilities for five (5) personnel at the MARS, a seasonally occupied, permanent research camp located on central Axel Heiberg Island;
- Use of hyperspectral camera, mounted on an aerial drone, for imaging of tundra terrain, and cataloguing and mapping microhabitats within the study area;
- Collection of soil samples;
- Collection of terrestrial arthropods with the use of six (6) pitfall traps within each microhabitat

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: 18YN013 to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via www.nirb.ca. Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at info@nirb.ca or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Mia Otokiak, Junior Technical Advisor, toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or motokiak@nirb.ca