



**NIRB File No.: 18YN025**  
NPC File No.: 148831

May 30, 2018

James Schaefer  
Trent University  
2140 East Bank Drive  
Peterborough Ontario K9L 0G2

Sent via email: [jschaefer@trentu.ca](mailto:jschaefer@trentu.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Trent University's "Back for the Future: Long-Term Observations of Vegetation and Snowcover in the High Arctic" project proposal**

Dear James Schaefer:

On April 13, 2018 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Trent University's "Back for the Future: Long-Term Observations of Vegetation and Snowcover in the High Arctic" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. 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 *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **18YN025** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

***Project Scope:***

The proposed "Back for the Future: Long-Term Observations of Vegetation and Snowcover in the High Arctic" project is located within the Kitikmeot region, approximately 60 kilometres (km) northwest from Cambridge Bay. The Proponent intends to conduct baseline studies of vegetation and snow conditions and evaluate the long-term changes. The program is proposed to take place in August 2018 and April 2019.

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Establishment of a temporary camp for two (2) people;
- Use of a Twin Otter for transportation to and from study area;

- Use of a canoe and on foot to access research sites;
- Measuring snow hardness and thickness with measuring tape; and
- Fuel use (2 gallons of Naptha for cooking).

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be obtained from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Back for the Future: Long-Term Observations of Vegetation and Snowcover in the High Arctic
- NIRB File No.: 18YN025
- Application No.: 125340

The documents received include:

- *NPC Screening Referral*
- *NPC Application*
- *NIRB's Online Application Form*
- *Project Map*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Trent University's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **June 11, 2018**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment (**Appendix A**).

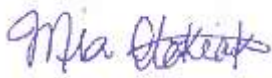
## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: Back for the Future: Long-Term Observations of Vegetation and Snowcover in the High Arctic
- NIRB File No.: 18YN025
- Application No.: 125340

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or at [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Junior Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List  
Karén Kharatyan, Nunavut Water Board  
Geoff Clark, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Wynter Kuliktana, Kitikmeot Inuit Association  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English and Inuinnaqtun)  
Comment Forms (English and Inuinnaqtun)

## **Appendix A**

### *Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions*

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

#### **General**

1. Trent University (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times.
2. The Proponent shall forward copies of all permits obtained and required for this project to the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) prior to the commencement of the project.
3. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 148831), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, May 18, 2018).
4. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.

#### **Water Use**

5. The Proponent shall not use water, including constructing or disturbing any stream, lakebed or the banks of any definable water course unless approved by the Nunavut Water Board.

#### **Wildlife - General**

6. The Proponent shall ensure that there is no damage to wildlife habitat in conducting this operation.
7. The Proponent shall not harass wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.
8. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
9. The Proponent shall not touch, feed or entice wildlife to approach by holding out or setting out decoys or any such devices, foodstuffs or bait of any kind.
10. The Proponent shall ensure that all project personnel are made aware of the measures to protect wildlife and are provided with training and/or advice on how to implement these measures.

#### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

11. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If nests are encountered and/or identified, the Proponent shall take precaution to avoid further interaction and or disturbance (e.g., a 100 metres buffer around the nests). If active nests of any birds are discovered (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have left the nest.
12. The Proponent shall minimize activities during periods when birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance such as migration, nesting and moulting.

13. The Proponent shall ensure its aircraft avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas where bird presence is likely.

#### **Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance**

14. The Proponent shall cease activities that may interfere with the migration or calving of caribou or muskox, until the caribou or muskox have passed or left the area.
15. The Proponent shall not block or cause any diversion to caribou migration, and shall cease activities likely to interfere with migration such as movement of equipment or personnel until such time as the caribou have passed.

#### **Temporary Camps and Land Use**

16. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located on gravel, sand or other durable land.
17. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of lakes or streams.
18. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.

#### **Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

19. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment upon abandonment.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state as practical as possible upon completion of field work.

#### **Other**

21. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.