



NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 19YN035

Project Name: The “A survey of mercury levels within edible plants, fungi and soil in Iqaluit and surrounding areas” project

Proponent Name: Queen’s University

Project Type: Research Region: Qikiqtani (South Baffin) Region

Public Registry: www.nirb.ca Application No.: 125475

Comment Deadline: **August 2, 2019**

PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “A survey of mercury levels within edible plants, fungi and soil in Iqaluit and surrounding areas” project is located within the Qikiqtani (South Baffin) region, within the municipal boundaries of the city of Iqaluit. The Proponent intends to sample multiple plant species and fungal species in different locations within Iqaluit in order to determine their potential to accumulate mercury. The program is proposed to take place from July to August 2019. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Undertake additional sampling of plants and fungi species within Iqaluit and surrounding locations in order to determine their potential to accumulate mercury;
- Use of shovel or trowel to sample fungi species (i.e. puffballs) that were found to accumulate high levels of mercury from the 2018 sample collection;
- Collect corresponding fungal mycorrhiza and soil samples in order to determine if the mercury is accumulated from the soil or the atmosphere; and
- Conduct laboratory testing of collected plant, fungi and soil samples for total mercury concentrations.

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **19YN035** 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 Solomon Amuno, Technical Advisor II, at (867) 983-4603 or samuno@nirb.ca.