



Parks  
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March 26, 2020

Nunavut Impact Review Board  
Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, X0B 0C0  
via email: info@nirb.ca

**RE: Request for Comments for NIRB Screening for Department of National Defence's "OP NANOOK-NUNALIVUT 2020" Project Proposal**

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DND's 2020 OP NANOOK-NUNALIVUT proposal. DND has not requested authorization from Parks Canada to conduct activities in any area of Qausuittuq National Park. However, the map in the NIRB application does show proposed ice activities in the immediate vicinity of Massey Island which is part of the national park, as are all the surrounding lands.

Parks Canada is mandated to protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations. In addition, one of the reasons for the establishment of Qausuittuq National Park was to protect Peary caribou, a Species at Risk.

Parks Canada is submitting the following comments and recommendations to reduce to potential impacts of the proposed project.

- No activities within boundaries have been authorized. All OP NANOOK-NUNALIVUT participants should be familiar with the boundaries of the park to avoid entering without permission (see Appendix 1). Due to the COVID 19 situation, a Superintendent's Order has been issued closing the park to persons not exercising harvest rights under the Nunavut Agreement (see Appendix 2).
- The Operations project description identifies in its environmental considerations section on page 6, that military activities will avoid Polar Bear Pass National

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Wildlife Area. In addition, the document identifies on page 7 that “Personnel will keep at least 1 km away from the boundary of the Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area.” Parks Canada recommends that the same environmental considerations apply to Qausuittuq National Park.

- Low level flight exercises should not be conducted over park air space; aircraft should maintain a minimum flying altitude of 2100 feet in air space over the park.

Information on Qausuittuq National Park can be obtained by contacting the Park Manager, Angela Piercey, at [angela.pierceypca@gmail.com](mailto:angela.pierceypca@gmail.com) / [angela.piercey@canada.ca](mailto:angela.piercey@canada.ca). The park office in Resolute is currently closed due to COVID 19.

If you have any questions regarding Parks Canada’s comments, please contact me at [jane.chisholmpca@gmail.com](mailto:jane.chisholmpca@gmail.com) / [pc.nunavut-impactassessment.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.nunavut-impactassessment.pc@canada.ca).

Sincerely,

Digitally signed

Jane Chisholm  
Ecologist Team Leader