

Ministre des
Affaires du Nord



Minister of
Northern Affairs

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

SEP 09 2020

Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board
PO Box 1360
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Via email: kkaluraq@nirb.ca; kcostello@nirb.ca, info@nirb.ca;

Dear Chairperson Kaluraq:

Thank you for your Screening Decision Report of March 19, 2020, regarding Canadian Arctic Holidays Ltd.'s "Clyde River Land Use Permit" project proposal. The Report indicated that the Nunavut Impact Review Board has determined that the project proposal, as currently designed, is likely to cause significant public concern, is likely to result in significant adverse ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts, and has recommended that the project proposal be modified or abandoned in accordance with Section 91 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*.

Of primary importance to the Board in making its screening decision were the potential adverse impacts to wildlife, the freshwater aquatic environment, and surface and ground water quality; lack of specific benefits and potential negative impacts to resources within the proposed *Agguttinni Territorial Park* due to tourism; potential negative impacts to harvesting areas and traditional land use; and the fact that the public commenting period generated significant public concern.

Public concerns included the proposed project's spatial and temporal overlap with sensitive wildlife habitats and migration routes including polar bears and freshwater species; inaccuracies in assessment of the existing biological environment caused by camp and skiing activities; inaccuracies in the characterization of traditional land use activities and undetermined impacts on Inuit harvesting; the proposed project's location within a proposed territorial park that does not currently have an established management plan; a need for clarification on the actual scope of proposed project; and a loss of economic benefit to the Clyde River community if the proponent moves to a camp outside of the community.

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Under Section 95 of the Act, I, as the responsible Minister, must either agree with the Board's determination that the project proposal be modified or abandoned, indicating that the project could be modified and an amended application be resubmitted to the Nunavut Planning Commission, or that the project is not to proceed; or reject the Board's determination if the responsible Minister is of the opinion that the project requires a review.

After considering the Board's Report and the discussion that took place between CIRNAC and Board staff (Tara Arko, Director – Technical Services) on May 7, 2020, I have decided, subject so Section 95(a)(i) of the Act, that the project proposal could be returned to the proponent for potential modification and resubmission to the Nunavut Planning Commission. I also recommend that Canadian Arctic Holidays Ltd. allow for the development and establishment of the *Agguttinni Territorial Park* Management Plan prior to resubmission.

I appreciate Canadian Arctic Holidays Ltd.'s interest in advancing tourism in Nunavut and recommend that the proponent further consult with the community of Clyde River and other organizations to further their understanding of the area.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board and its staff for its efforts in screening the project proposal.

Sincerely,



Hon. Daniel Vandal, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Joe Savikataaq
The Honourable David Akeeagok
Lootie Toomasie