



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT  
NIRB FILE NO.: 22YN015**

NPC File No.: 149716

May 25, 2022

To Tracey McCaie  
Manager Land Administration  
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: [tracey.mccaie@canada.ca](mailto:tracey.mccaie@canada.ca)

**Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for Universite de Sherbrooke's "Geological Study and Mapping of Hydrothermal Deposits and Gossans at Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, as Analogs for Mars" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region**

---

Dear Tracey McCaie:


Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs for Universite de Sherbrooke's "Geological Study and Mapping of Hydrothermal Deposits and Gossans at Expedition Fiord, Axel Heiberg Island, as Analogs for Mars" in the Qikiqtani Region, dated May 25, 2022.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867) 983 4615 or [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Calvin Ehaloak  
Environmental Administrator  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (2): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 22YN015 (English and Inuktitut) (May 25, 2022)

cc: Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute