



# CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

## Re: Notice of Screening for Memorial University's "Community-based Study of Underice Benthic Assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office  
P.O. Box 100  
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

Your file - Votre référence  
22YN019  
Our file - Notre référence  
GCdocs# 103279347

May 27, 2022

Emily Koide  
Technical Advisor I  
Nunavut Impact Review Board  
P.O. Box 1360  
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0  
via NIRB public registry

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment request for Memorial University's "Community-based Study of Underice Benthic Assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)" Project Proposal**

Dear Emily Koide,

On May 17, 2022, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Memorial University's "Community-based Study of Underice Benthic Assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

**Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.**

**CIRNAC #1: Potential for Positive Effects to Inuit Through Employment, Training, and Procurement Opportunities**

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent prioritize the employment and training of local Inuit as well as procurement with Inuit-owned businesses when implementing project activities. Such efforts will allow for positive effects to be realized by community members and the local Inuit population. As a result, Inuit and Inuit-owned businesses situated in Grise Fiord and Sanikiluaq should be prioritized in any project-related employment, training, and procurement opportunities that may be made available.

**CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties**

CIRNAC recommends the Proponent consult with the Hamlet of Grise Fiord, the Hamlet of Sanikiluaq, the Iviq Hunters and Trappers Organization, and the Sanikiluaq Hunters and Trappers Association. Issues that should be considered as part of any consultation activities should include:

- Incorporation of Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;



- Mitigation measures designed to reduce disturbances to wildlife and the environment;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional and non-traditional activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with the NIRB and the Proponent throughout any further phases related to this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Richard Bingley by e-mail at [richard.bingley2@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:richard.bingley2@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca) or Jalen Tagoona at (867) 975-4663 or email at [jalen.tagoona@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:jalen.tagoona@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Felexce Ngwa  
Manager, Impact Assessment

