



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT  
NIRB FILE NO.: 22YN019**

NPC File No.: 149725

June 17, 2022

To: Mosha Cote  
Manager, Research Liaison  
Nunavut Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1720  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: [mosha.cote@arcticcollege.com](mailto:mosha.cote@arcticcollege.com)

**Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for OSC – Memorial University’s “Community-based study of under-ice benthic assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)” Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region**

Dear Mosha:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board’s (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Pamela Gross, Minister of Nunavut Arctic College for OSC - Memorial University’s “Community-based study of under-ice benthic assemblages in the Arctic (BenthArctic)” in the Qikiqtani Region, dated June 17, 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.: 22YN019 (English and Inuktitut) (June 17, 2022)

cc: Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Agnes Simonfalvy, Government of Nunavut  
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Alasdair Beattie, Fisheries and Oceans Canada