COMMENT FORM FOR NIRB SCREENINGS

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has a mandate to protect the integrity of the ecosystem for the existing and future residents of Nunavut. To assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project proposal, NIRB would like to hear your concerns, comments and suggestions about the following project proposal application:

Project Proposal Title: **Scenic Cruises – Unlocking the Northwest Passage**
Proponent: **Scenic Cruises**
Location: **Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Regions**
Comments Due By: **July 14, 2022** **NIRB #:** **22TN017**

Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:

- ☐ no concerns
- ☐ water quality
- ☐ terrain
- ☐ air quality
- ☐ wildlife and their habitat
- ☐ marine mammals and their habitat
- ☐ birds and their habitat
- ☐ fish and their habitat
- ☐ heritage resources in area
- ☐ traditional uses of land
- ☐ Inuit harvesting activities
- ☐ community involvement and consultation
- ☐ local development in the area
- ☐ tourism in the area
- ☐ human health issues
- ☐ other:_____

Please describe the concerns indicated above:

N/A

Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?

Transport Canada (TC) previously reviewed this project under the Environmental Impact Screening Committee's environmental screening regime for projects in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (File No 03/22-19). TC's comments were as follows:

Marine Safety and Security

Marine Safety and Security reviewed the Project Description and noted the following about Section 7.5, Proposed Activities at Project Location:

- There is no mention of briefing passenger on marine emergency duties and hazards prior to embarking the Zodiacs or any other time; and
- There is no mention of the Polar Waters Operational Manual and not submitted for review.

Transport Canada participates in a working group that works directly with cruise ship operators, and may request this and other information.

Indigenous Relations Unit

The Canadian Arctic is governed under a 'joint-management model' whereby a variety of federal, provincial, and territorial government departments and agencies, along with Indigenous and local communities and regulatory boards play separate and important roles. Navigating waterways in the Canadian Arctic are subject to comprehensive Land Claims Agreements and the operator must seek the proper permissions prior from all relevant authorities.

Transport Canada recommends operators contact Territorial Land Claim Administrators to ensure the proper procedures are followed prior to arrival. Most Canadian Arctic communities welcome visitors, provided they are contacted well-in-advance and have a chance to prepare for visitors.

Community members enjoy the opportunity to share their hospitality, culture and knowledge of the Arctic. Many Arctic communities still practice traditional activities such as hunting, fishing and eating country foods. It is therefore important that visitors be respectful and culturally sensitive of these activities.

Do you support the project proposal? Yes ☐ No ☐ Any additional comments?

N/A

Name of person commenting: Holly Poklitar **of** Transport Canada

Position: **Regional Environmental Advisor** **Organization:** Transport Canada

Signature: **(Submitted via email)** **Date:** July 14, 2022