



**NIRB File No.: 23YN012**  
NPC File No.: 150038

May 1, 2023

Shari Fox  
Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre  
P.O Box 150  
Clyde River X0A 0E0

Sent via email: [ittaq@ilisaqsivik.ca](mailto:ittaq@ilisaqsivik.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening for Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre’s “Baseline Monitoring at Ninginganiq NWA” project proposal**

Dear Shari Fox:

On March 23, 2023, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre’s “Baseline Monitoring at Ninginganiq NWA” project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), with an accompanying positive conformity determination with the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. On April 20, 2023, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

Pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*), the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **23YN012**.

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

***Project Scope:***

All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125788](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125788).

<b>Project:</b>	Baseline Monitoring in Ninginganiq NWA				
<b>Region:</b>	Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Region				
<b>Location:</b>	Within the Ninginganiq National Wildlife Area				
<b>Closest Community:</b>	Clyde River	<b>Distance (approximate)</b>	80 kilometers (km)	<b>Direction</b>	Southeast

<b>Summary of Project Description:</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct baseline documentation of cultural sites in the Ninginganiq NWA and explore what kinds of monitoring may be suitable to be conducted by Inuit researchers and hunters from Clyde River.
<b>Project Proposed Timeline:</b>	May 2023 to October 2025

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Use of skidoos and possible use of a helicopter for transportation to and from Clyde River to the National Wildlife Area (NWA);
- Set up and use of temporary camp while in NWA for up to three (3) weeks;
  - Use of tents, generator, camp stove, and naphtha fuel;
  - Proper disposal of all waste;
  - Use of water from lakes/ivers around camp
- Use of Mavic 3 Drones to take photos and videos of landscape, environment and cultural sites;
- Greywater and human wastes to be disposed of at least 100 meters from water sources;
- Non-combustible wastes to be brought back to the community of Clyde River for proper disposal;
- Training and hiring local community members to help for the life of the project; and
- Accommodations and facility use within the community of Clyde River.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

At this time, the NIRB has identified no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

All documents received can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125788](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125788) and include:

- *Commission Conformity Determination*
- *Commission Application & Questionnaire*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Project Activities in English, Inuktitut and French*

The NIRB will copy you on screening process related correspondence and upload related documents to the NIRB's online registry for public access. The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

The NIRB is copying parties and municipalities potentially affected by Ittaq Heritage and Research Centre's project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 11, 2023**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/125788](http://www.nirb.ca/project/125788).

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4622 or [motokiak@nirb.ca](mailto:motokiak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak  
Technical Advisor I  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Stephen Williamson Bathory, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Caroline Whittle, Government of Nunavut – Department of Culture and Heritage  
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute  
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada  
Lisa Pirie-Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services

## Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

### General

1. Ittaq Heritage and Resource Centre (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.: 150038) and the NIRB (Online Application Form, April 20, 2023). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

### Waste Management

6. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

### Wildlife – General

7. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
8. The Proponent shall not chase, weary, harass or molest wildlife. This includes persistently circling, chasing, hovering over, pursuing or in any other way harass wildlife, or disturbing large groups of animals.

### Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

9. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

10. The Proponent shall not disturb or destroy the nests or eggs of any birds. If active nests of any birds are discovered or located (i.e., with eggs or young), the Proponent shall avoid these areas until nesting is complete and the young have naturally left the vicinity of the nest by establishing a protection buffer zone<sup>1</sup> appropriate for the species and the surrounding habitat.

### **Road and Ground Disturbance**

11. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.

### **Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas**

12. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
13. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
14. The Proponent shall avoid disturbance on slopes prone to natural erosion, and alternative locations shall be utilized.
15. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.
16. The Proponent shall ensure that all disturbed areas are restored to a stable or pre-disturbed state using Best Available Technology Economically Achievable (BATEA) upon completion of work and/or abandonment.

### **Camps**

17. The Proponent shall ensure that all camps are located durable surfaces, such as gravel or sand that is consolidated and can withstand repeated, heavy use. Measures shall be put in place to prevent erosion, trail formation and damage to the ground.
18. The Proponent shall not erect camps or store materials on the surface ice of lakes or streams, except that which is for immediate use.

### **Heritage Sites**

19. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
20. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

### **Other**

21. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommended setback distances to define buffer zones have been established by Environment and Climate Change Canada for different bird groups nesting in tundra habitat and can be found at [www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb](http://www.ec.gc.ca/paom-itmb).

22. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
23. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.