



NIRB File No.: 23CN021

May 4, 2023

Chris Doucette
P.O. Box 278
Iqaluit, NU
X0A-0H0

Sent via email: chris.doucette@pc.gc.ca

Re: Notice of Screening for Parks Canada’s “Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place” project proposal

Dear Chris Doucette:

On April 6, 2023, the NIRB received a referral to screen Parks Canada’s “Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place” project proposal directly from Parks Canada pursuant to s. 167 of the *NuPPAA*. On April 14, 2023, the NIRB received the complete application from the Proponent.

The NIRB notes that the proposed project would be located within the Sirmilik National Park and pursuant to s. 70(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Nunavut Planning Commission conformity determination process does not apply.¹ As a result, pursuant to Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 87 of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has commenced screening this project proposal and has assigned it file number **23CN021**.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Scope:

Project:	Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place				
Region:	Qikiqtani (Qikiqtaaluk North)				
Location:	Sirmilik National Park				
Closest Community:	Arctic Bay	Distance (approximate)	50 kilometres (km)	Direction	North east

¹ Subsection 70(1) states of the *NuPPAA*: This Part and the broad planning policies, priorities and objectives, the specific planning objectives and any land use plan, established under this Part, do not apply in respect of a park that has been established or to a historic place that has been designated under the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* and is administered by the Parks Canada Agency.

Summary of Project Description:	The Proponent intends to set up a temporary camp to construct a permanent cabin, a camping area, and a helicopter landing area within the Sirmilik National Park, together called the Cultural Learning Centre.
Project Proposed Timeline:	May 2023 to August 2024, at least 2-4 times per year thereafter.

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

- Construction and/or storage of prefabricated structures in Arctic Bay, including:
 - pre-fabricated multi-use cabin;
 - cultural learning centre;
 - flagpole;
 - outdoor seating;
 - privy; and
 - aboveground fire pit;
- Transport of prefabricated material from Arctic Bay to Sinaasiurvik by snowmobile and qamutik in spring 2023 and 2024;
- Assembly of prefabricated structures at Sinaasiurvik in summer 2023 and 2024;
- Temporary 10-person camps in summer 2023 and 2024;
- Use of helicopter for transportation of personnel and equipment;
- Use of gasoline, naphtha, and propane for camp activities and snowmobiles; and
- Ongoing use of cabin and other facilities by Parks Canada staff, visitors, and local residents.

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 www.nirb.ca/project/125795 and include:

- *PC Conformity Determination*
- *NIRB Application*
- *Plain Language Summary*
- *Project Description.*

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 Parks Canada project proposal with this letter, and we invite interested parties to comment directly to the NIRB by **May 25, 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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send your comments to the NIRB via email at 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/125795.

If you have any questions or require clarification, feel free to contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4618 or rqammaniq@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Robby Qammaniq
Technical Advisor II
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosures (2): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List
Jane Chisholm, Parks Canada
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Hamlet of Arctic Bay