



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: <u>Over the Top: The Northwest Passage Expedition</u>																			
Proponent: <u>Adam Riley</u>																			
Location: <u>Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani (North Baffin) Regions</u>																			
Comments Due By: <u>June 5, 2023</u>	NIRB #: <u>23UN006</u>																		
<p>Indicate your concerns about the project proposal below:</p> <table> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> no concerns</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> water quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> terrain</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> air quality</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> human health issues</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> other: _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please describe the concerns indicated above:</p> <p>Please see Transport Canada's comments in the section below.</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> no concerns	<input type="checkbox"/> traditional uses of land	<input type="checkbox"/> water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Inuit harvesting activities	<input type="checkbox"/> terrain	<input type="checkbox"/> community involvement and consultation	<input type="checkbox"/> air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> local development in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism in the area	<input type="checkbox"/> marine mammals and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> human health issues	<input type="checkbox"/> birds and their habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> fish and their habitat	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> heritage resources in area	_____
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<p>Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for this application?</p> <p>Transport Canada's responses to NIRB's June 5, 2023 request for comments are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibly – The Ice Conditions and other hazards unique to the Canadian Arctic pose significant challenges to the safe navigation of a vessel, especially for those without ice classification. These factors make re-supply operators and communities very nervous because they depend on Canadian Coast Guard Ice Breakers to assist, if necessary, when delivering goods and fuel to the communities for sustenance over winter. If an adventurer voyage, such as the one in question, turns into a Search & Rescue situation, then this would differ ice breakers away from assisting with community re-supply and therefore cause a delay in delivery and other potential domino effects. For the reasons cited above, Transport Canada strongly discourages any discretionary voyages in the Canadian Arctic Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why; 																			



- Not foreseen to.
- 3. Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; if so, why;
 - No, as long as the individuals are respectful when/if they see individuals out undergoing traditional hunting and other activities on traditional land.
- 4. Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (please provide any recommended mitigation measures); and
 - **Pleasure craft have their AIS on at all times during their voyage. This is essential given the overall remoteness, distance to shore infrastructure and lack of available Search and Rescue resources in the Canadian Arctic.**
 - **Pleasure craft should communicate – and have the means to communicate – a minimum of two daily position reports addressed to NORDREG CANADA and sent to the Marine Communications and Traffic Services (MCTS) Centre in Iqaluit.**
- 5. Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.
 - It is also expected that expeditions maintain robust liability insurance coverage during the entire voyage. Additional medical services for foreign visitors, such as medical evacuations, could incur costs to the traveler upwards of \$40,000.
 - Note that the *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (AWPPA) sets out a complete prohibition on the discharge of waste generated onboard ships into Canadian Arctic waters, except under specific circumstances prescribed by regulation. Please see this link for further information: [Arctic Shipping Safety and Pollution Prevention Regulations \(justice.gc.ca\)](https://www.justice.gc.ca/tp13670)
 - The Annual Notice to Mariners for further information for vessels operating in the Canadian Arctic: [Annual Edition - Notice - A7A \(notmar.gc.ca\)](https://www.notmar.gc.ca/).
 - The latest ice conditions as well as historical ice conditions and seasonal outlooks can be found here: [Latest ice conditions - Canada.ca](https://www.ec.gc.ca/ice-conditions).
 - The Ice Operation Officer may be reach 24 / 7 at: 514-283-2784. Their email address is: DFO.IceOpsArctic.GlacesOpsArctique.MPO@df0-mpo.gc.ca
 - The Ice Specialist numbers are: 514-283-1752 or Toll free: 1-855-201-0086 or via email at ec.ssgarctiqueissarctic.ec@canada.ca
 - [TP13670](https://www.ec.gc.ca/tp13670) - *Guidelines for Passenger Vessels Operating in the Canadian Arctic*. This document is geared more towards cruise ships, but there may be some applicable information in there and would encourage the expedition to use that as an additional information tool.
 - Inuit communities in the Canadian Arctic have distinct and varying expectations of their visitors. Therefore, we urge them to contact any communities they plan to visit well in advance to coordinate their respectful arrival and visit. **They are also required to contact Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) at their first port of call.**
 - NORDREG: 1-867-979-5724 email: iqanordreg@innav.gc.ca.
 - [Office of Boating Safety \(canada.ca\)](https://www.ec.gc.ca/office-of-boating-safety)
 - [Visitor Information \(canada.ca\)](https://www.ec.gc.ca/visitor-information)



- [Safe Boating Guide – Safety Tips and Requirements for Pleasure Crafts \(canada.ca\)](#)
- Vessel should ensure that they carry sufficient fuel and provisions when in the Canadian Arctic in order to remain self-sufficient during their intended voyage.

Transport Canada Indigenous Relations Unit – comment/advice for proponent

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?

Transport Canada has no comments on whether NIRB should approve this project.

Name of person commenting: Scott Kidd **of** Winnipeg, Manitoba

Position: Acting Senior Regional Env. Advisor **Organization:** Transport Canada

Signature: Scott Kidd **Date:** June 5, 2023