



NIRB File No.: 23CN021

July 13, 2023

To: The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca

Re: Screening Decision for Parks Canada’s “Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place” Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region

Dear Honourable Minister:

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 assigned it file number **23CN021**.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Parks Canada’s “Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place” project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated July 13, 2023 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the

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.

regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125795.

Please note that, the Board only directly addresses these notice letters to those individuals considered to be a "responsible Minister with decision-making authority" for the project as set out under the *NuPPAA*. However, regulatory authorities and other authorizing agencies associated with a proposed project (e.g. Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Water Board) will continue to be copied on the Notice of Release of the Screening Decision Report. The NIRB is providing these parties with notice and access to the Board's Screening Decision Report as required under s. 200(2) and in support of these parties in the fulfillment of their responsibilities under the *NuPPAA* and the *Nunavut Agreement* to address, and as appropriate, implement, to the fullest extent possible, any relevant NIRB recommendations contained in the Screening Decision Report.

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister and the NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or tarko@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Kaviq Kaluraq
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 23CN021 (July 13, 2023)