



NIRB File No.: 24UN004
NPC File No.: 150211

February 21, 2024

Alex Fredin
Fredin's Acres
43197 236th Street
Arlington, Minnesota, USA
55307

Sent via email: alex@hinc.net

Re: Opportunity to address comments received regarding Alex Fredin's "Waterfowl Egg Collection for Education" project proposal

Dear Alex Fredin:

On January 26, 2024, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Alex Fredin's "Waterfowl Egg Collection for Education" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission). On February 9, 2024, the NIRB circulated a public notice of the screening for this project, inviting interested parties to provide comments directly to the NIRB by February 19, 2024.

On or before February 9, 2024, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

- *Kivalliq Inuit Association (KivIA)*
- *Transport Canada (TC)*

All comment submissions received by the NIRB relating to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at www.nirb.ca/project/125880.

A *summary* of the KivIA's concerns reflected in the comment submissions relate to the following:

- Notes that some residents of Coral Harbour may express concern over the collection of eggs from species that are culturally and socioeconomically important to Inuit.
- Notes that the five (5) waterfowl species involved in this proposal are consumed by local Inuit, including their eggs. The Aiviit HTO has supported the proposal at the requested numbers but may be able to provide the proponents with additional guidance, for example, reducing the number of eggs to be collected from species that are less abundant.
- Notes that any potential for significant adverse impacts on Inuit harvesting can be alleviated by closely working with the Aiviit HTO to ensure that collecting activities occur in areas where Inuit are not actively harvesting eggs for subsistence.

- Notes that the proponents have the experience and knowledge necessary to minimize adverse effects by ensuring that eggs are collected in a safe manner and kept healthy through the use of incubators.
- Notes that local support and participation are critical to the success of this project. Notes that a minimum of two local guides should be hired. Local guides will also be required for polar bear safety reasons, and the proponents should consult with the HTO on bear safety plans.
- Notes that Inuit have well-established guidelines for sustainability when it comes to egg collection, and the proponents should work closely with the HTO to develop a protocol that specifies how many eggs can be removed for each nest depending on the total number of eggs present (e.g., remove a single egg from nests with 3 or less eggs, and a maximum of two eggs from nests with 4 or more eggs).
- Notes that the proponents are also encouraged to work with the HTO to ensure they are not collecting eggs from nests where local Inuit are also harvesting, to mitigate any cumulative impacts from multiple egg collections from the same nests.
- Notes that the proponents will require a Scientific Educational permit from Environment and Climate Change Canada, and possibly an aviculture permit. They are encouraged to apply for these permits as soon as possible.
- Notes that the project will not be located with the McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS), the Harry Gibbons MBS or the East Bay MBS, and will instead take place within the municipal boundaries, in whole or in part. Should these plans change, additional permits to access the MBS may be required.

The NIRB would like to provide Alex Fredin with an opportunity to address the comments noted above prior to the Board rendering its determination for this screening assessment and issuing its subsequent Screening Decision Report to the responsible Minister. The NIRB respectfully requests that a response be provided directly to the NIRB by **March 6, 2024**.

If Alex Fredin determines that the time required to supply a written response is significantly greater than two (2) weeks, the Board requests written notification and an anticipated date for submission be provided as soon as possible.

Please send any forthcoming submissions directly to the NIRB at info@nirb.ca, or through the online public registry at www.nirb.ca.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification, please contact the undersigned directly at (867) 983-4622 or motokiak@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Otokiak
Technical Advisor I
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Maria Serra, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Craig Beardsall, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Michele LeBlanc Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment
Lisa Pirie – Dominix, Canadian Wildlife Services