



**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF SCREENING DECISION REPORT
NIRB FILE NO.: 24YN003**

NPC File No.: 150175

March 26, 2024

To: Mosha Cote
Manager, Research Liaison
Nunavut Research Institute
P.O. Box 1720
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: mosha.cote@arcticcollege.com

Re: Notice of Release of Screening Decision Report for National Oceanography's "The B.I.G. (Before It's Gone) Expedition" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region

Dear Mosha Cote:

Enclosed is the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Screening Decision Report to the Honourable Minister Karen Nutarak, Minister of the Nunavut Arctic College for National Oceanography's "The B.I.G. (Before It's Gone) Expedition" in the Qikiqtani Region, dated March 26, 2024.

The NIRB has assessed this project proposal for ecosystemic and socio-economic impacts taking into consideration the comments from relevant authorities and communities. Based on this assessment, the Board has indicated to the responsible Minister that **a review of the project is not required** in accordance with s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*). Accordingly, the NIRB awaits a response from the Minister.

In the absence of a response from the Minister, regulatory authorities should take note of s. 75(1)(e) of the *NuPPAA*, which provides: "A regulatory authority is not authorized to issue a licence, permit or other authorization in respect of a project if the responsible Minister has decided either that the project could be modified and an amended project submitted to the Commission or that it is not to proceed." Contravention of s. 75(1) of the *NuPPAA* will render a licence, permit or other authorization issued of no force or effect.

Please contact the undersigned at (867) 983-4615 or info@nirb.ca if you have any questions or require additional clarification.

Sincerely,



Calvin Ehloak
Technical Administration Coordinator
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 24YN003 (March 26, 2024)

cc: Felicity Aston, National Oceanography Centre