



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for University of Manitoba's
"Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability
and Service" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
918 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
25YN012
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 138852627

July 2, 2025

Amir Pourmahabadian
Senior Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for University of Manitoba's "Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability and Service" Project Proposal

Dear Amir Pourmahabadian,

On June 19, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on University of Manitoba's "Arctic Community Connectivity for Equity, Sustainability and Service" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology

CIRNAC #1: Fuel Handling and Spill Risk

CIRNAC is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be mitigated with known practices or technology.

Hydrogen fuel has no carbon emissions at use but is highly flammable and disperses rapidly if leaked. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider implementing best management practices to aid in mitigation of potential impacts that might arise from the use of hydrogen fuel, including:

- Equipping all hydrogen storage and handling areas with continuous leak detectors and forced ventilation; and,
- Providing essential training to all personnel about the hydrogen fuel handling given that it has wide flammable range and low ignition energy.



Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal

CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue its efforts to consult with the Municipality of Chesterfield Inlet, the Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Association, and any other relevant organizations or individuals on its project proposal. As part of these consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including, but not limited to:

- Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into project activities;
- Mitigation measures to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- Mitigation measures to prevent disturbance to sites of cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- The experience of community members who practice traditional and recreational activities within or in close proximity to project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Muhammad Arslan by e-mail at muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or David Abernethy by email at david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Richard Bingley
Manager, Impact Assessment

