



# NOTICE OF SCREENING OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NIRB File No.: 25YN051

Project Name: The “Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw” project  
Proponent Name: Eric Bottos  
Project Type: Research Region: Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani  
Public Registry: [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) 126200  
Comment Deadline: **July 28, 2025**

## PROJECT SCOPE:

The proposed “Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw” project is located within the Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani regions. The Proponent plans to collect permafrost cores and overlying soil samples to study how permafrost microbial communities respond to climate-driven thaw. The program is proposed to take place from August 5, 2025 to September 1, 2025. The scope of this proposed project as identified by the NIRB includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Collection of small quantity of overlying soil and a small permafrost core from sampling areas
- Using a spade and shovel to dig and collect overlying soil
- Using a portable 2-stroke auger to drill permafrost cores

Please visit the NIRB’s public registry online at the link above and look up NIRB File No.: **25YN051** to access all project information, maps, and public comment forms.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

**You are invited to provide the NIRB with your comments regarding whether the proposed project is:**

- likely to arouse significant public concern and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse ecosystemic or socio-economic effects and, if so, why;
- likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities and, if so, why;
- a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and can be prevented/managed appropriately with known technology.

Parties are also invited to recommend any specific mitigation measures they feel would be appropriate, and to bring any other matter of importance related to this project proposal to the NIRB’s attention.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**The NIRB has recently launched an updated online public registry, and parties can access project information as well as submit comments directly to the NIRB via [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca).** Comments can still be submitted directly to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca) or via fax to (867) 983-2594.

If you have any questions or require clarification regarding the proposed project or the NIRB’s screening process, please contact Varun Nayak, Monitoring Officer toll-free at 1-866-233-3033 or [vnayak@nirb.ca](mailto:vnayak@nirb.ca).