



NIRB File No.: 25YN055

NIRB Public Registry Link: [www.nirb.ca/project/126209](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126209)

NPC File No.: 150855

July 23, 2025

Ken Jeffries  
C/O University of Manitoba  
50 Sifton Road  
Winnipeg, MB  
R3T 2N2

Sent via email: [Ken.Jeffries@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Ken.Jeffries@umanitoba.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request**

Dear Ken Jeffries:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) received a referral to screen University of Manitoba's "Baseline levels of contaminants in the softshell clam and characterization of invertebrate communities near Qikiqtarjuaq" project proposal:

- June 19, 2025, the Nunavut Planning Commission noted the project is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan and requires screening by the NIRB, and
- July 7, 2025, the NIRB received a complete application and assigned it file number **25YN055** - please reference this file number in all future related correspondence.

The NIRB has commenced screening the project proposal pursuant to the *Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*<sup>1</sup> and by copy of this letter, **invites interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the proposal to comment directly to the Nunavut Impact Review Board.**

SCOPE OF PROPOSED PROJECT

<b>Location</b>	Qikiqtani region, within the Qikiqtarjuaq area
<b>Objective</b>	As part of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada's research, the Proponent intends to collect 60 softshell clams ( <i>Mya truncata</i> ) and near shore invertebrates at three (3) different locations to measure the levels of contaminants.
<b>Timeline</b>	August 12 to October 12, 2025, seasonal

<sup>1</sup> Article 12, Sections 12.4.1 and 12.4.4 of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (NuPPAA)

According to the project proposal, the scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- Using a boat, go on day trips to three different locations to collect 60 softshell clams by hand or by a SCUBA diver digging the clams underwater;
- Refuel the boat while transiting to the sampling sites;
- Collect some invertebrate species using grab samplers near the shores of Qikiqtarjuaq; and,
- Take the samples collected to a laboratory to analyze the samples for contaminants.

### ***Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List***

The NIRB has identified

- no additional works or activities in relation to the project proposal. As a result, the NIRB will proceed with screening the project based on the scope as described above.

## REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Documents received and describing the proposal can be accessed from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca/project/126209](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126209) including:

- *Nunavut Planning Commission Application*
- *Nunavut Planning Commission Conformity Determination Letter*
- *Nunavut Impact Review Board Application Form*

The NIRB may request additional information at any time during the process.

By copy of this letter, the NIRB is inviting interested parties and municipalities potentially affected by the project proposal to comment directly to the NIRB by **August 4, 2025**.

The NIRB would like parties to provide comments regarding:

- Whether the project proposal is likely to arouse significant public concern; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse eco-systemic or socio-economic effects; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is likely to cause significant adverse impacts on wildlife habitat or Inuit harvest activities; and if so, why;
- Whether the project proposal is of a type where the potential adverse effects are highly predictable and mitigable with known technology, (and providing any recommended mitigation measures); and
- Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal.

Please note that *proposed* project-specific terms and conditions, should the project proceed, have been attached for consideration and comment ([Appendix A](#)).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send comments to the NIRB via email at [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), via fax at (867) 983-2594 or via the individual project dashboard for this assessment on the NIRB's online public registry

at [www.nirb.ca/project/126209](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126209). Questions should be directed to the undersigned at (867) 983 – 4618 or [rquammaniq@nirb.ca](mailto:rquammaniq@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Robby Qammaniq  
Impact Assessment Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Attachments: Appendix A: *Proposed* Project Specific Terms and Conditions

Enclosures (4): Public Notice of Screening (English, and Inuktitut)  
Comment Forms (English, and Inuktitut)

cc: Distribution List  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Joel Fortier, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Carson Gillis, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Dustin Fredlund, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Jorgan Aitaok, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
Mosha Cotes, Nunavut Research Institute  
[DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.ARCEMTriage-TriageGEARC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)  
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

## **Appendix A: Proposed Project Specific Terms and Conditions**

The following is a list of project-specific terms and conditions which, should the project proceed, may be recommended to be attached to any approval.

### **General**

1. University of Manitoba (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.:150885), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, June 19, 2025). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

### **Waste Management**

5. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

### **Fuel and Chemical Storage**

6. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
7. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.

### **Wildlife – General**

8. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
9. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.

### **Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance**

10. The Proponent shall avoid the seaward site of seabird colonies and areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl, a minimum distance away on the recommendation of the appropriate authorizing agencies.
11. The Proponent shall not pursue seabirds or waterbirds swimming on the water surface and shall avoid concentrations of these birds if encountered on the water.

### **Marine-based Activities**

12. The Proponent shall not attempt to intersect or interfere with the movements of marine mammals. This includes ensuring that there are no wake zones within 250 metres and a minimum of 100 metre no go zone around marine mammals. Strategic positioning of vessels ahead of the path being traveled by mobile mammals and waiting for the mammals to pass is also prohibited.
13. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.
14. The Proponent shall report all incidents or sightings of injured marine mammals encountered during project activities to the appropriate authorizing agencies.

### **Other**

15. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
16. The Proponent should consult with local residents regarding their activities in the area and solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information that can inform project activities.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
18. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.