



CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Thompson Rivers
University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial
Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence
25YN051
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 139221935

July 25, 2025

Varun Nayak
Monitoring 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 Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" Project Proposal

Dear Varun Nayak,

On July 16, 2025, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" 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 is of the view that the potential impacts of the proposed Project can be mitigated with known practices or technology

CIRNAC #1: Best Management Practices

The Project will bring a single 10 L jerry can of gasoline aboard the *Ocean Endeavor* to power one portable two-stroke auger; when ashore the auger will contain 2 L of gasoline. The Proponent indicates several spill mitigation planning measures. CIRNAC recommends the Proponent also considers:

- Storing the jerry can inside a double-walled locker while aboard, and keep fuel of the environmental storage areas;
- Inspecting the auger's fuel line and cap before each deployment to confirm integrity;
- Using drip pans and absorbent pads during refueling as appropriate; and,
- Maintaining accessibility to appropriate spill-response equipment and clean-up materials while refueling.



CIRNAC #2: Consultation with Interested Parties

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue consulting with the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, the Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers Association, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Qikiqtani Inuit 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 Qaujimagatuqangit 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

