



NIRB File No.: 26YN019  
NIRB Public Registry link:  
[www.nirb.ca/project/126401](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126401)  
NPC File No.: 151096

May 8, 2026

Kyle Elliot  
McGill University  
21111 Lakeshore  
Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC H9X3V9

Sent via email: [kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca](mailto:kyle.elliott@mcgill.ca)

**Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for McGill University's "Adaptation to an ice-free summer by Arctic seabirds" project proposal**

Dear Kyle Elliot:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening<sup>1</sup> the project proposal.

**By copy of this letter, NIRB invites regulators, interested parties, and community members or groups potentially affected by the proposal to view the application and comment directly to the NIRB by May 29, 2026.**

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

**The application can be viewed on NIRB's online registry [www.nirb.ca/project/126401](http://www.nirb.ca/project/126401) where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca), or by fax.**

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to 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)

## Scope of proposal

<b>Location</b>	Kivalliq region, Coats Island, Evans Strait, approximately 100 kilometers south of Coral Harbour
<b>Objective</b>	The Proponent intends to conduct research on nesting thick-billed murres and glaucous gulls during the summer. Activities would include trapping, banding, and observation of migratory birds.
<b>Timeline</b>	June 20, 2026 to August 15, 2029 (seasonal summer field programs conducted annually within this period)

The scope of the project includes the following undertakings, works or activities:

- **Camp:** The seasonal base camp consists of four (4) small cabins occupied by approximately 3-8 people.
- **Transportation:**
  - Use of a fixed-wing aircraft to fly in/out personnel to project site and resupply.
  - Use of an ATV to haul supply and equipment to camp and airstrip/landing area.
- **Activities:** Up to 200 adults and 1000 chicks, along with 30 gull nestlings, would be banded, sampled, and measured, selected murres would carry lightweight GPS, camera, and depth loggers to record movements and foraging activities, including collection of limited eggs, feathers, and tissues for toxicological analysis.
- **Equipment:**
  - Up to two (2) unoccupied surface vehicles to be used to measure fish abundance near the seabird colony.
  - Use of a Drone to count birds at a safe distance.
  - 20 camera loggers and 15 camera traps to record behavior of birds.
  - 40 depth-geolocators to record year-round behavior of birds.
  - 20 stomach loggers to measure stomach temperature of birds.
  - Use of a generator to charge equipment.
- **Fuel, Water and Waste:**
  - Gasoline – approximately 100 liters in 20-liter containers to power ATV and generator.
  - Propane – approximately 100 pounds for camp stove use.
  - Water – would be collected from snow for use at camp.
  - Waste – Combustible waste to be incinerated at camp, non-combustible waste generated would be flown out at the end of each season and placed in landfill, and greywater to be disposed of in a sump near camp away from any water sources and to be backfilled.

### *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.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 Ext 570 or [femingak@nirb.ca](mailto:femingak@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,

Francis Emingak  
Screening Officer  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board  
Luis Manzo, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Ashley Aupaluktuq- Burton, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Brenda Pilakapsi, Kivalliq Inuit Association  
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut  
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut  
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut  
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut  
Michele LeBlanc-Havard, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Jon Neely, Coordinator, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Jeff MacDonald, A/Director, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Drikus Gissing, Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment  
Lisa Pirie, Canadian Wildlife Service