



NIRB File No.: 26YN039
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126453
NPC File No.: 150985

May 20, 2026

Camille Lavoie
Université Laval
1045 avenue de la Médecine
Québec QC G1V 0A6

Sent via email: Camille.lavoie.3@ulaval.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Laval University (LU) "Temporal monitoring of Arctic kelp forests and associated biodiversity in the Qikiqtarjuaq region" project proposal

Dear Camille Lavoie:

The Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) has commenced screening¹ 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 June 10, 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/126453 where a comment form is available, or comments can be also submitted to info@nirb.ca, or by fax.

¹ 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

Location	Qikiqtani region, <i>Qikiqtarjuaq and surrounding coastal marine areas.</i>
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct research to establish a long-term, community-engaged monitoring program for High Arctic kelp forests (kuanniq) in the Qikiqtarjuaq region, including studying kelp forest ecology and assessing the effects of environmental and climate change on kelp habitats, associated biodiversity, and coastal ecosystem functions.
Timeline	August 2026 to March 31, 2030 (Multi-year project)

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

- **Field Activities and Methods:**
 - Collecting seaweed samples from approximately 30 sites using small plots (quadrats) and collecting tissue samples for DNA analysis. Tagging kelp at 3–6 permanent monitoring sites and deploying 5-meter growth lines with surface buoys.
 - Installing underwater sensors to measure water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and light levels.
 - Clearing small areas (maximum 6 m²) of seaweeds and invertebrates to monitor recovery over time.
 - Collecting marine invertebrates using divers or baited cages for food web analysis.
- **Equipment:**
 - Hiring of a local boat operator to access research sites.
 - Use of a snowmobile to access research sites.
 - Use of scientific monitoring equipment, including CTD (Conductivity, Temperature, and Depth) CastAway units, approximately 12 Odyssey PAR sensors, and 20 HOBO temperature/light sensors to monitor marine conditions and seafloor environments.
- **Fuel and Waste:**
 - Use of approximately 6,000 liters of gasoline for boating or snowmobile activities during the project life.
 - Wastewater and sewage would be managed through the community's existing disposal system.

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.

Sincerely,



Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisnova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization