



NIRB File: 26YN039

link: www.nirb.ca/project/126453

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 150985

June 24, 2026

To: The Honourable Joanne Thompson
Minister of Fisheries
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Sent via email: joanne.thompson@parl.gc.ca

Re: **Screening Decision for Laval University "Temporal monitoring of Arctic kelp forests and associated biodiversity in the Qikiqtarjuaq region" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On May 5, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening¹ of Laval University (LU) "Temporal monitoring of Arctic kelp forests and associated biodiversity in the Qikiqtarjuaq region" project proposal and after completing the required process, the NIRB determined² that a **review of the project is not required** and recommended specific terms and conditions³.

The attached Screening Decision Report provides the regulatory framework, scope of proposal and Board's assessment process, public engagement, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts, and recommended project-specific terms and conditions. Additional information on the project can be viewed on the NIRB's public registry at the link at the top of this letter.

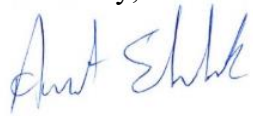
The NIRB look forward to receiving a response from the Minister, and any questions on the Board's assessment process or the Screening Decision Report can be directed to the NIRB's Director, Operations, Tara Arko at 1-833-233-3033 EXT 500 or tarko@nirb.ca.

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 section 87 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)*

2 Pursuant to s. 92(1)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

3 Pursuant to s. 92(2)(a) of the *NuPPAA*

Sincerely,



Albert Ehloak
Chairperson
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure (1): Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 26YN039 (June 24, 2026)

cc: David Akeagok, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Olayuk Akesuk *President*, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubeisinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Camille Lavoie, Laval University