



NIRB File No.: 25YN051
NIRB Public Registry link: www.nirb.ca/project/126464
NPC File No.: 151157
Related to NIRB File No.: 25TN071

July 7, 2026

Eric Bottos
Thompson Rivers University
805 TRU Way
Kamloops, British Columbia
V2C 0C8

Sent via email: ebottos@tru.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" project proposal

Dear Eric Bottos:

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 July 28, 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/126464 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

Previously Assessed Locations	Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani regions (Dundas Harbour, Powell Inlet, Port Leopold, Beechey Island, Prescott Island, Pasley Bay)
New Locations	Kitikmeot and Qikiqtani regions (Grise Fiord Inlet, Coutts Inlet, Maxwell Bay, Aston Bay, Strzelecki Harbour, Fort Ross, Wrottesley Inlet)
Objective	The Proponent intends to investigate how permafrost thaw affects carbon release by studying microbial communities in permafrost and overlying soils across Arctic landscapes.
Timeline	August to September 2026

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

- Sailing on Adventure Canada's *Ocean Victory* vessel, with access to shore by Zodiac and travel to sampling sites by foot;
- Collection of overlying soil samples, approximately 30 cm permafrost cores, and small bryophyte samples within 3 m × 3 m sampling plots; and
- Use of equipment (electric drill) to collect soil and permafrost samples;
- Site restoration and equipment cleaning between sampling locations.

Inclusion or Exclusion of Scoping List

The NIRB has identified that the vessel-related activities associated with Adventure Canada's *Ocean Victory*, including the vessel route and general cruise operations, were previously assessed under NIRB File No. 25TN071, for which a Screening Decision Report was issued on January 12, 2026. These vessel-related activities will not be reconsidered in detail as part of the current assessment, except where relevant to cumulative effects, changed circumstances, or continuing authorizations. The current assessment will otherwise proceed based on the amended project scope identified above.

Questions about the NIRB's work should be directed to the undersigned at 1-866-233-3033 ext. 555 or mbeattie@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mia Beattie

Impact Assessment Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Distribution List
Cory Barker, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Tannis Bolt, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Jared Ottenhof, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Chris Spencer, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Conor Goddard, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Assol Kubesinova, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Justin Buller, Government of Nunavut, Department Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs
Dianne Lapierre, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services
Natalie D'Souza, Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment
Sean Joseph, Government of Nunavut, Department of Community Services
Moshia Cote, Nunavut Research Institute