



NIRB File 26YN040

NIRB Public Registry link: www.nirb.ca/project/126455

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 151156

July 14, 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 Geological Survey of Canada's "Gascovne Inlet Geoscience 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 Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC) "Gascovne Inlet Geoscience 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 1-866-233-3033 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.: 26YN040 (July 14, 2026)

cc: Regulators
Olayuk Akesuk, President of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association
The Honourable David Akeeagok, Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
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 of Executive & 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
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Jose Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rod Smith, Proponent
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