



NIRB File No.: 26YN043
NIRB Public Registry link:
www.nirb.ca/project/126462
NPC File No.: 151191

July 27, 2026

Natasha Leclerc
Université Laval
315 rue Saint-Jean, Apt. 421
Quebec, Quebec G1R 1N9

Sent via email: ndhlnl2@mun.ca

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Université Laval's "Studying Long-Term Changes in Arctic Ocean Ecosystems near Qikiqtarjuaq" project proposal

Dear Natasha Leclerc:

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 August 17, 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/126462 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, in coastal marine areas within approximately 115km radius of Qikiqtarjuaq
Objective	The Proponent intends to study long-term changes in marine environmental conditions and phytoplankton dynamics near the community of Qikiqtarjuaq by collecting and analyzing clam shells and coralline algae and by monitoring coralline algae growth and local environmental conditions using a temporary underwater platform.
Timeline	Operation Phase: August 2026 to October 31, 2029

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

- Use of one small boat (10m-15m) carrying up to 6 personnel and equipment for day trips to sampling sites, including:
 - Deployment of an underwater monitoring platform and associated equipment on the seabed, including stainless steel rods, stainless steel screws, stainless steel brackets, and PVC sheet used as base for platform;
 - Use of four (4) sets of SCUBA equipment to support specimens collection and the installation, monitoring, maintenance, and removal of the underwater platform and associated equipment;
 - Installation of four (4) environmental loggers to measure photosynthetic active radiation, light, temperature, salinity and pH loggers at approximately 20m depth.
 - Collection of coralline algae by hand or using a hammer and chisel;
 - Collection of clam shells and coralline algae for laboratory analysis; and
 - Near-monthly diving activities to retrieve algae samples and inspect, replace, or maintain the environmental monitoring equipment.
- Use of a bin container to stain algae with alizarin red, and use of two (2) growing lights during the three-day staining period at the Qikiqtarjuaq Research Centre.
- Use of 24 plastic vials for collection of seawater and sediment samples for transportation to the Université of Laval for analysis.
- Use of four (4) snowmobiles to transport researchers and equipment from the Qikiqtarjuaq Research Center to field sites.
- Use of 1,920 liters of gasoline per year for transportation of boats and snowmobiles.
- Use of approximately 0.025kg of alizarin red salts to stain coralline algae and mark the beginning of the growth-monitoring experiment before the algae are installed on the underwater platform. Removal of the underwater platform, sensors, PVC sheets, and associated materials at the end of the study; however, some stainless-steel rods, screws, or small amounts of Splash Zone Putty may remain on the seafloor where cementing is required.
- Waste Management:
 - Combustible waste such as bins, growing lights and jerry-can to be transported back to Quebec City for future projects and/or disposal.
 - Non-combustible waste such as packaging waste from equipment to be sent to the local landfill for disposal.
 - Approximately 40lbs of non-combustible waste such as sensors, batteries, steel, and cemented algae will be transported back to University of Laval for proper disposal.

- Approximately 25 grams of alizarin red would be diluted in water within plastic bins in the lab at the Qikiqtarjuaq Research Center, all unused dye and water would be stored until it can be shipped back to Quebec for proper disposal.

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 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
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute,
José Audet-Lecouffe, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization