



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

August 17, 2026

To: The Honourable David Akeeagok
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
607 Queen Elizabeth Way, Unit 301
Iqaluit, NU X0A 3H0

Sent via email: dakeeagok7@gov.nu.ca

Re: **Screening Decision for Thompson Rivers University's "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" Project Proposal, Kitikmeot and Oikiqtani Regions**

Dear Honourable Minister:

On June 8, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening¹ of Thomson Rivers University's (TRU) "Responses of Permafrost Microbial Communities to Climate-Driven Thaw" 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.

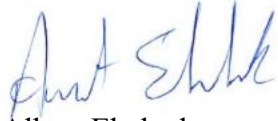
The NIRB look forward to receiving a response from the Minister, and any questions on the Board's assessment process or the Screening Decision Report can be directed to the NIRB's Director, Operations, Tara Arko at 1-866-233-3033 EXT 500 or tarko@nirb.ca.

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.: 25YN051 (August 17, 2026)

cc: Regulators
James Eeetoolook, President of Kitimeot Inuit Association
Olayuk Akesuk, President of Qikiqtani Inuit Association
The Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
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
Tracey McCaie, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Marcus Bermann, Crown – Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Eric Bottos, Proponent