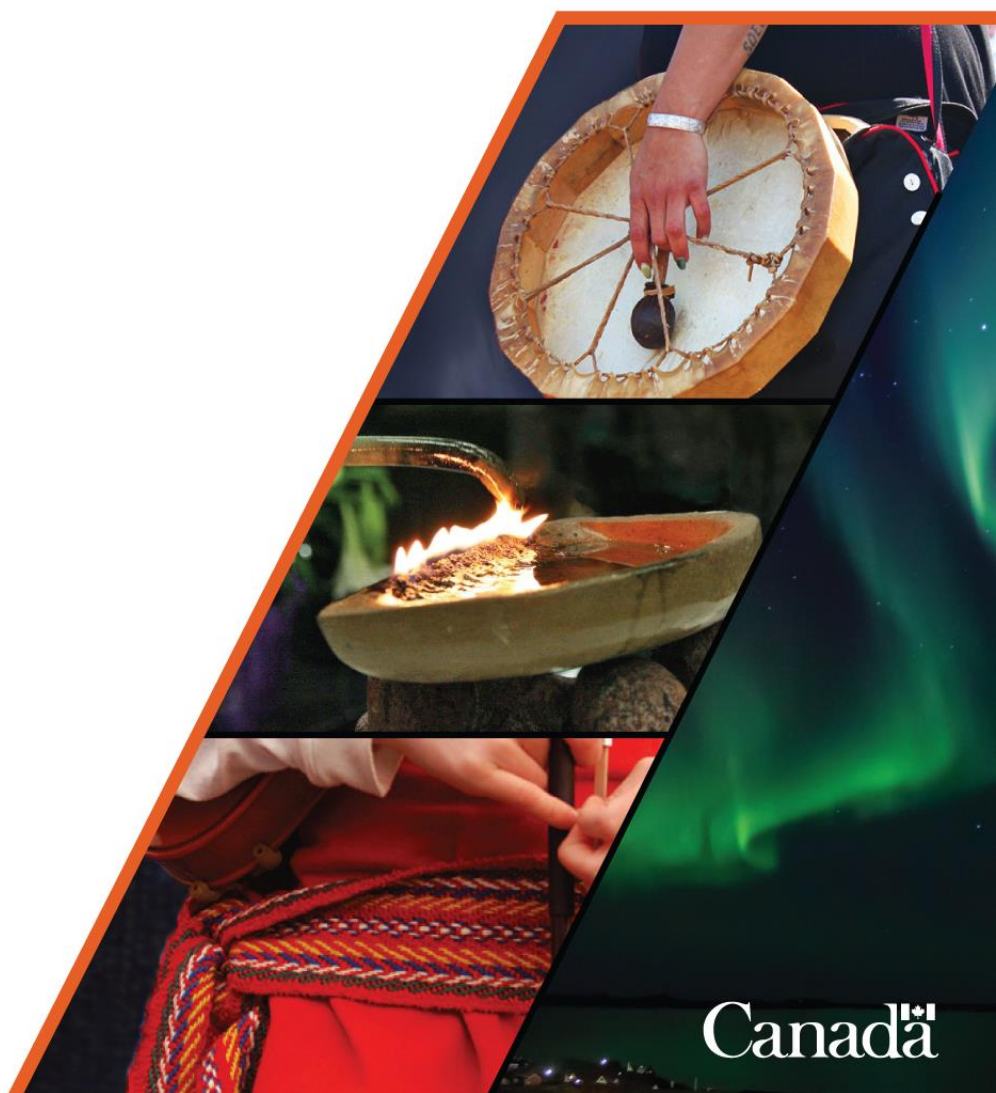




CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Université Laval's "Studying Long-Term Changes in Arctic Ocean Ecosystems near Qikiqtarjuaq" Project Proposal



Nunavut Regional Office
918 Sivumugiaq Street
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 3H0

Your file - Votre référence
26YN043
Our file - Notre référence
GCdocs# 149176523

August 17, 2026

Francis Emingak
Screening Officer
Nunavut Impact Review Board
P.O. Box 1360
Cambridge Bay, NU, X0B 0C0
via NIRB public registry

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

Dear Francis Emingak,

On July 27, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Université Laval's "Studying Long-Term Changes in Arctic Ocean Ecosystems near Qikiqtarjuaq" project proposal. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and offers the responses below as it pertains to the NIRB's request:

Any matter of importance to the Party related to the project proposal

CIRNAC #1: Fuel Handling, Storage, and Spill Control

The application identifies a maximum annual gasoline use of 1,920 liters for one 10-15 meter vessel and four snowmobiles, with fuel supplied through local operators or the Qikiqtarjuaq Research Centre. Although no fuel cache is proposed, the application does not clarify whether spare fuel would be transported or temporarily staged during field activities, the maximum quantity that may be present at one time, or the spill-prevention and response measures applicable during fuel transfer and refueling. Responsibilities among the parties involved are also unclear. Fuel releases during transportation, transfer, or use could affect shorelines, sea ice, and associated waters. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider:

- Clarifying whether spare fuel would be transported or staged, including at shoreline or terrestrial locations, and the maximum quantity at one time;
- Describing where refueling and fuel transfer would occur and the applicable spill-prevention measures; and
- Confirming spill-response materials and responsibilities for reporting, cleanup, and response.



CIRNAC #2: Consultation with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association

CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent continue engaging with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association on the management of its project proposal. As part of these consultation activities, several issues should be considered, including but not limited to:

- Incorporation of Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit and community knowledge in project activities;
- Mitigation measures to prevent any disturbance to wildlife and the environment;
- Mitigation measures to prevent disturbance to sites of cultural, archaeological, and/or environmental significance;
- The experience of community members who participate in traditional harvesting activities within or in close proximity to the project area;
- Training and employment opportunities for Inuit and community members;
- Procurement opportunities for local and Inuit-owned businesses; and
- Regular updates on the status of project activities.

CIRNAC appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Muhammad Arslan by e-mail at muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca or David Abernethy by email at david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Saba Qazi
A/Manager, Impact Assessment

