



# CIRNAC Comments to NIRB

Re: Notice of Screening for Government of Nunavut's  
"Clyde River Municipal Drinking Water Source  
Investigative Fisheries Study" Project Proposal



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

Your file - Votre référence  
26YN050  
Our file - Notre référence  
GCdocs# 149265467

August 17, 2026

Dustin Sim  
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 Government of Nunavut's "Clyde River Municipal Drinking Water Source Investigative Fisheries Study" Project Proposal**

Dear Mia Beattie,

On July 29, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) invited parties to comment on Government of Nunavut's "Clyde River Municipal Drinking Water Source Investigative Fisheries Study" 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 and Spill Prevention**

The project identifies the use of approximately 5 L of gasoline and field activities at the municipal drinking-water source. While the quantity of fuel is small, the application does not describe how fuel would be transported, temporarily stored, or handled in the vicinity of the waterbody, nor does it indicate whether spill-response materials would be available on site. Given the proximity of project activities to the community's drinking-water source, additional information regarding fuel management practices would help demonstrate how the potential for an accidental release to enter the waterbody, either directly or indirectly, would be minimized. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider:

- Avoiding refueling or fuel transfer activities at or immediately adjacent to the waterbody and maintaining appropriate setbacks from the high-water mark of any waterbody;
- Using a drip pan, impermeable liner, or equivalent containment during any fuel transfer;
- Keeping portable fuel containers in suitable secondary containment when temporarily stored; and



- Maintaining appropriate absorbent and spill-response materials at the field site.

### **CIRNAC #2: Site Access and Shoreline Protection**

The project description states that site access may occur by truck, ATV, boat, or on foot depending on site conditions. Access and transportation activities can be a primary source of environmental disturbance associated with otherwise low-impact field studies. CIRNAC recommends that the Proponent consider:

- Using existing roads, trails, and previously disturbed or durable surfaces wherever practicable;
- Avoiding vehicle or ATV travel where ground conditions could result in rutting, gouging, erosion, or disturbance of saturated ground or shoreline areas;
- Minimizing disturbance of shoreline and riparian vegetation when accessing or launching the boat; and
- Removing all project-related waste, fuel, and equipment and restoring any disturbed ground to a stable condition following completion of field activities.

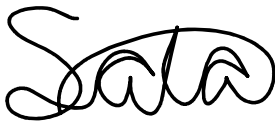
### **CIRNAC #3: Consultation with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association**

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

- Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit 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](mailto:muhammad.arslan@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca) or David Abernethy by email at [david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca](mailto:david.abernethy@rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Saba Qazi  
A/Manager, Impact Assessment

