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Building Nunavut Together
Nunavut iluqatigiingniq
Bâtir le Nunavut ensemble

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September 3, 2026

Sent VIA Email: info@nirb.ca

NIRB File #: 26UN010

Re: Notice of Screening and Comment Request for Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation's "Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project" proposal

Hello Viren,

The Government of Nunavut (GN) thanks the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the opportunity to provide comments on Nunavut Nukkiksautiit Corporation's "Iqaluit Nukkiksautiit Project" proposal, NIRB File # 26UN010.

The GN has reviewed the proposed project and notes that the scope and extent of the project proposal warrant further review. Consistent with the Board's August 12, 2026, request for comments and the criteria in section 12.4.2 of the *Nunavut Agreement*, several factors support a review of the Project under Part 5.

The Project includes construction of a hydroelectric dam and a ~7,100-hectare reservoir; an approximately 66-kilometre all-season road and transmission corridor; quarries, borrow sources, and temporary camps, with operations extending to 2099. Its scale, footprint, and duration have the potential to result in significant adverse ecosystemic and socio-economic effects in the Qikiqtani region.

The GN recognizes that the Project could affect wildlife, harvesting activities and access, and food security, and that these potential effects may be of significant public concern. For example, changes in water flow, levels, or quality could affect Arctic char populations and habitat, which are important to local commercial and subsistence harvesting. The access road, transmission line, and increased Project-related activity may also affect the recovering Baffin Island Caribou herd through increased disturbance and access to areas important for caribou. Increased human access could lead to greater harvesting pressure on the herd, potentially affecting its sustainability and long-term harvesting opportunities. The GN is aware that these concerns have also been raised by local HTO members.

