



SCREENING DECISION REPORT NIRB FILE No.: 26YN048

NPC File No.: 151232

September 21, 2026

Following the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) assessment of all materials provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of Royal Roads University's "Namminiqurniq Nunavut Ecosystems Field Course" is not required pursuant to Article 12, Section 12.4.4(a) of the *Agreement between the Inuit of the Nunavut Settlement Area and Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada (Nunavut Agreement)* and s. 92(1)(a) of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, S.C. 2013, c. 14, s. 2 (*NuPPAA*).

Subject to the Proponent's compliance with the terms and conditions as set out in below, issued in accordance with s. 92(2)(a) of *NuPPAA*, the NIRB is of the view that the project proposal is not likely to cause significant public concerns, and it is unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental and social impacts. The NIRB therefore recommends that the responsible Minister(s) accepts this Screening Decision Report.

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REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary objectives of the NIRB are set out in Article 12, Section 12.2.5 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and are confirmed by s. 23 of the *NuPPAA*. The purpose of screening is provided for under Article 12, Section 12.4.1 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 88 of the *NuPPAA*.

As set out under Article 12, Section 12.4.4 of the *Nunavut Agreement* and s. 92(1) of the *NuPPAA*, upon conclusion of the screening process, the Board must provide its written report the Minister indicating one of three options:

- (a) a review of the project is not required;
- (b) a review of the project is required; or
- (c) the project should be modified or abandoned.

PROJECT OVERVIEW & THE NIRB ASSESSMENT PROCESS

On July 2, 2026, the NIRB received a referral to screen Royal Roads University (RRU)’s “Namminiqurniq Nunavut Ecosystems Field Course” project proposal (NIRB File No: 26YN048) from the Nunavut Planning Commission (Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable land use plan. All documents received and pertaining to this project proposal can be accessed from the NIRB’s Public Registry by using any of the following search criteria or www.nirb.ca/project/126475.

- Project Name: Namminiqurniq Nunavut Ecosystems Field Course
- NIRB File No.: 26YN048
- NIRB Application No.: 126475

Table 1: NIRB’s Assessment Process

Date	Stage
August 7, 2026	Receipt of project proposal
August 11, 2026	Receipt of online application from Proponent
August 11, 2026	Scoping pursuant to s. 86(1) of the <i>NuPPAA</i>
August 12, 2026	NIRB conducted an inclusion or exclusion of scope
August 20, 2026	Public engagement and comment request (which included draft terms and conditions) was issued in English with Inuktitut translations provided once available
September 10, 2026	Receipt of public comments
September 21, 2026	Issuance of Screening Decision Report

1. Project Scope

Location	South Qikiqtani region, in and around Iqaluit, Frobisher Bay, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park, Katannilik Territorial Park, Nunngarut and Jordan River.
Objective	The Proponent intends to conduct educational research activities to help support Devolution-related employment that consists of vegetation sampling, conducting snow and ice measurements, wildlife observation and harvest monitoring, and oceanographic data collection.

Timeline	September 28, 2026, to March 31, 2027. (Up to three (3) field days in September 2026 and March 2027 – six (6) field days in total)
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As required under s. 86(1) of the *NuPPAA*, the Board accepted the scope of the project as set out by RRU in the proposal. The scope of the project proposal includes the following undertakings, works, or activities:

- **Undertakings, Works and Activities**
 - Environmental sampling would include vegetation, snow and ice, plankton, and Arctic char harvesting and sampling, wildlife observation and environmental monitoring activities.
 - Up to 15 (fifteen) personnel will be on site for up to six (6) field days, activities would be conducted by boat and snowmobile where applicable.
- **Equipment and Fuel Use**
 - Use of up to four (4) boats and twenty (20) snowmobiles, with up to 200 litres of gasoline transported in jerry cans for use during field activities.
- **Water Use and Waste**
 - Water would be brought from the city of Iqaluit, and solid waste would be brought back to Iqaluit and disposed of at the landfill. Human waste would be disposed of using park outhouses where available or buried more than 150 metres from water sources.

2. Inclusion or Exclusion to 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.

3. Public Comments and Concerns

As outlined in Table 1 above, notices regarding the NIRB's screening of this project proposal were distributed to community organizations as well as to relevant federal and territorial government agencies, Inuit organizations and other parties with a request for interested parties to provide the Board with any comments or concerns 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.

On or before September 10, 2026, the NIRB received comments from the following interested parties:

Table 2: Comments Received

Commenting Party	NIRB Doc ID No.
Government of Nunavut	363015
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	363016
Transport Canada	362876

a. Summary of Comments and Concerns Received

The following provides a summary of the comments and concerns received by the NIRB in relation to the Namminiqsurniq Nunavut Ecosystems Field Course project proposal:

Government of Nunavut

- No comments received during the commenting period.

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada

- Additional details regarding fuel handling, secondary containment, refuelling procedures, and spill response measures.
- Measures to protect tundra, vegetation, and soils during overland and snowmobile travel.

Transport Canada

- No comments received during the commenting period.

4. *b. Comments and Concerns with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge*

No concerns or comments were received with respect to Inuit Qaujimaningit or Indigenous and Community knowledge in relation to the proposed project. However, Inuit Qaujimaningit and Indigenous and community knowledge is incorporated into the terms and conditions recommended below based on information collected from prior and similar projects, data collected and mapped by the Commission, and other available sources.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 3 OF *NuPPAA*

In determining whether a review of the project is required, the Board considered whether the project proposal had potential to result in significant ecosystemic or socio-economic impacts. Table 3. The Board took particular care to consider Inuit Qaujimaningit, Indigenous and Community Knowledge in carrying out its assessment and determination of the significance of impacts.

Table 3: Summary of the Board's Assessment of Factors s. 90 *NuPPAA*

Factor	Comment
The size of the geographic area, including the size of wildlife	▪ The physical footprint of the proposed project would be limited to selected sampling and travel areas near

Factor	Comment
habitats, likely to be affected by the impacts.	Iqaluit, within Frobisher Bay, and within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Territorial Parks. ▪ The proposed project would take place within habitats that may be used by migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife as well as fish and fish habitat within Frobisher Bay and associated sampling areas.
The ecosystemic sensitivity of that area.	▪ The proposed project would occur within terrestrial and aquatic environments near Iqaluit, including Frobisher Bay and areas within Sylvia Grinnell and Katannilik Parks.
The historical, cultural and archaeological significance of that area.	▪ No specific archaeological or cultural sites have been identified by the proponent within the physical footprint of the proposed project; however, archaeological resources may be present within the project area.
The size of the human and the animal populations likely to be affected by the impacts.	▪ The proposed project is unlikely to result in significant impacts to local human receptors due to the small scale, short duration, and localized nature of the proposed activities. ▪ Potential effects to wildlife, birds, marine mammals and fish are expected to be localized and temporary due to the limited duration and extent of field activities.
The nature, magnitude and complexity of the impacts; the probability of the impacts occurring; the frequency and duration of the impacts; and the reversibility or irreversibility of the impacts.	▪ Due to the small scale and short duration of the proposed project, potential impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized, temporary and reversible. ▪ With adherence to the relevant regulatory requirements and application of the mitigation measures recommended by the NIRB, no significant residual effects are expected to occur.
The cumulative impacts that could result from the impacts of the project combined with those of any other project that has been carried out, is being carried out or is likely to be carried out.	▪ The project area is subject to existing land use activities, including camping, fishing, harvesting and other community activities. Due to the small scale, short duration and localized nature of the proposed project, its contribution to cumulative effects is expected to be minimal. The NIRB has considered past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities and has recommended terms, conditions and mitigation measures with consideration for potential cumulative effects.
Any other factor that the Board considers relevant to the assessment of the significance of impacts.	▪ No other relevant factors were identified; however, see below for Regulatory Requirements mandating mitigation and/or reporting.

Regulatory Requirements

The Proponent is also advised that the following legislation may apply to the Project:

Acts and Regulations

1. The *Fisheries Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/F-14/index.html>).
2. The *Nunavut Waters and Nunavut Surface Rights Tribunal Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/n-28.8/>).
3. The *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/M-7.01/>), the *Migratory Birds Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1035/index.html) and the *Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulations* (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C.,_c._1036/index.html).
4. The *Species at Risk Act* (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/>). Attached in **Appendix A** is a list of Species at Risk in Nunavut.
5. The *Wildlife Act* (Nunavut) and its corresponding regulations (<http://www.canlii.org/en/nu/laws/stat/snu-2003-c-26/latest/snu-2003-c-26.html>).
6. The *Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act* (<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/A-12/>)

Views of the Board

In considering the above factors, the Board has identified the following and respectfully provides its views regarding whether or not the proposed project has the potential to result in significant impacts. The NIRB has also proposed terms and conditions that would mitigate the potential adverse impacts identified.

Ecosystem, wildlife habitat and Inuit harvesting activities:

Valued Component	Migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial and Species at Risk
Potential effects:	Field activities, including personnel presence and travel by boat, snowmobile and on foot, may result in temporary noise and visual disturbance to migratory and non-migratory birds, terrestrial wildlife and Species at Risk that may be present within the project area. Activities may result in temporary avoidance of localized areas.
Nature of Impacts:	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude and localized to areas where field activities and travel occur. Effects are anticipated to be short-term, temporary and reversible, with wildlife expected to resume normal use of the area following completion of activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The proponent has committed to minimizing disturbance to wildlife during travel and sampling activities, reducing travel speeds near wildlife and bird habitat, and avoiding observed wildlife while conducting field activities.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Wildlife – General – 15 through 19 Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance – 20 Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance - 21

Valued Component	Fish and fish habitat, and aquatic environment
Potential effects:	Arctic char harvesting and sampling will result in the direct removal of fish from Frobisher Bay and associated fishing areas. Plankton sampling and vessel travel may also result in temporary and localized disturbance to fish, fish habitat and the aquatic environment. Fuel use associated with vessel activities may present a risk of localized contamination in the event of an accidental spill.
Nature of Impacts:	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized and limited to the duration of field activities. Effects are anticipated to be short-term, temporary and reversible due to the limited scale and duration of vessel use and sampling activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The proponent will conduct Arctic char harvesting and sampling in accordance with applicable licenses and authorizations. Vessel travel will be limited to that required for field activities, and travel speeds will be reduced near shorelines and wildlife. Spill response supplies will be available, and fuel will be transported and handled in a manner intended to prevent releases to the environment.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Water course/Water bodies – 6 Fuel and Chemical Storage – 8, 9 and 11 Wildlife – General - 16 Marine Based Activities – 29 through 31

Valued Component	Vegetation, land, soils, terrain stability
Potential effects:	Personnel movement, vegetation quadrat sampling and snowmobile travel may result in localized disturbance to vegetation, soils and terrain within the project area, including vegetation trampling or minor surface disturbance.
Nature of Impacts:	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude and localized to areas used for access sampling. Effects are anticipated to be short-term, temporary and reversible due to the limited scale and non-invasive nature of the proposed sampling activities.
Mitigating Factors:	Vegetation sampling will be conducted non-invasively using quadrats, with no vegetation retained or removed for analysis. The proponent will avoid rare, sensitive or culturally important plant communities and will use existing trails where possible to minimize disturbance to vegetation and terrain.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Waste Management – 7 Road and Ground Disturbance – 22 through 25 Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas – 26 through 28

Valued Component	Public and traditional land use
Potential effects:	Project activities and personnel presence within areas surrounding Iqaluit, Frobisher Bay, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park and Katannilik Territorial Park may temporarily interact with public and traditional land use activities, including travel, fishing, harvesting, camping and recreational use.

Nature of Impacts:	Impacts are expected to be low in magnitude, localized and limited to the duration of field activities. Effects are anticipated to be short-term, temporary and reversible, with continued access and use of the surrounding areas expected during and following project activities.
Mitigating Factors:	Activities will be conducted over short field periods, and the proponent has indicated that project activities are intended to avoid unnecessary disruption to community use, harvesting areas and other land users.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other – 34 and 35

Socio-economic effects on northerners:

Valued Component	Historical sites
Potential effects:	Travel and field sampling activities may result in accidental disturbance to archaeological, historical or culturally important sites or features that may be present within the project area.
Nature of Impacts:	Impacts are expected to be unlikely and low in magnitude due to the limited ground disturbance associated with the project. Any potential effects would be localized to the immediate area of field activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The proponent has committed to avoiding archaeological and culturally important sites and features, including visible features such as tent rings. Vegetation sampling will not involve excavation or soil disturbance, further reducing the potential effects to archaeological or cultural resources.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Heritage Sites – 32 and 33

Valued Component	Inuit training, employment capacity and socio-economic benefits.
Potential effects:	The project may result in limited short-term employment or contracting opportunities associated with transportation, outfitting and support for field activities.
Nature of Impacts:	Potential socio-economic effects associated with employment and hiring are expected to be minor and temporary due to the limited workforce and short duration of field activities.
Mitigating Factors:	The project is primarily educational and training initiative involving existing program participants and personnel. Local outfitters and service providers may be used to support field activities where required.
Proposed Terms and Conditions:	Other - 36

Technological innovations for which the effects are unknown:

- No new or untested technologies are proposed for the project. Potential effects are expected to be predictable and can be addressed through standard mitigation measures.

Administrative Conditions:

To encourage compliance with applicable regulatory requirements and assist the Board and responsible authorities with compliance and effects monitoring for project activities, the following project-specific terms and conditions have been recommended: 1-5.

In considering the above factors and subject to the Proponent's compliance with regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions necessary to mitigate against the potential adverse environmental and social effects, the Board is of the view that the proposed project is unlikely to cause significant public concern and its adverse ecosystemic and socioeconomic impacts are unlikely to be significant, or are highly predictable and can be adequately mitigated by known technologies.

RECOMMENDED PROJECT-SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Board is recommending the following specific terms and conditions to apply in respect of the project:

General

1. Royal Road University (the Proponent) shall maintain a copy of the Project Terms and Conditions at the site of operation at all times and make it accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
2. The Proponent shall operate in accordance with all commitments stated in correspondence provided to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC File No.:151232), and the NIRB (Online Application Form, July 28, 2026; Revised Application, August 11, 2026). This information should be accessible to enforcement officers upon request.
3. The Proponent shall operate the site in accordance with all applicable Acts, Regulations and Guidelines.
4. The Proponent shall ensure that it meets the standards and/or limits as set out in the authorizing agencies' permits or licences as required for this project.
5. The Proponent shall ensure that all personnel, staff and contractors are adequately trained prior to commencement of all project activities, and shall be made aware of all operational plans, management plans, guidelines and Proponent commitments relating to the project.

Water courses/Water bodies (including fresh and marine waters)

6. The Proponent shall not deposit, nor permit the deposit of any fuel, chemicals, wastes (including wastewater) or sediment into any water body. The Proponent should have in place an Emergency Spill Response Plan that is approved by the appropriate authorizing agency(ies).

Waste Management

7. The Proponent shall manage all hazardous and non-hazardous waste including food, domestic wastes, debris and petroleum-based chemicals (e.g., greases, gasoline, glycol-based antifreeze) in such a manner to avoid release into the environment and access to wildlife at all times until disposed of appropriately or at an approved facility.

Fuel and Chemical Storage

8. The Proponent shall locate all fuel and other hazardous materials a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body and environmentally sensitive areas as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies. The materials shall be stored in such a manner as to prevent their release into the environment.
9. The Proponent shall ensure that re-fuelling of all equipment occurs a minimum distance away from the high-water mark of any water body as required by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
10. All fuel and chemical storage containers must be clearly marked with the Proponent's name for ease of identification.
11. The Proponent shall have a Spill Contingency Plan in place at all fuel storage or transfer locations and shall ensure that appropriate spill response equipment and clean-up materials (e.g., shovels, pumps, barrels, drip pans, and absorbents) are readily available.
12. The Proponent shall follow the authorizing agencies' direction for management and removal of hazardous materials and wastes (e.g., contaminated soils, sediment and waste oil).
13. The Proponent shall ensure that wildlife deterrent systems are utilized at the time of a spill incident in order to avoid wildlife (terrestrial or marine) and migratory birds from being contaminated.
14. The Proponent shall ensure that all spills of fuel or other deleterious materials of 100 litres or more must be reported immediately to the 24-hour Spill Line at (867) 920-8130.

Wildlife – General

15. The Proponent shall not substantially alter or damage or destroy any wildlife habitat in conducting this operation unless otherwise authorized by the appropriate authorizing agencies.
16. The Proponent shall not hunt or fish, unless proper Nunavut authorizations have been acquired.
17. The Proponent shall ensure that all wildlife have the right-of-way on any roads or trails. Vehicles are required to slow down or stop and wait to permit the free and unrestricted movement of wildlife across roads or trails at any location.
18. The Proponent shall enforce safe speed limits for vehicles travelling along the road to ensure drivers have sufficient time to react in a safe manner if wildlife are encountered on or adjacent to the road or trail.
19. The Proponent shall ensure that drivers maintain spacing appropriate for driving and road conditions, and speed limits, to ensure drivers have time to safely react to any wildlife on the road.

Migratory Birds and Raptors Disturbance

20. The Proponent shall carry out all phases of the project in a manner that protects migratory birds and avoids harming, killing or disturbing migratory birds or destroying, disturbing or taking their nests or eggs. In this regard, the Proponent shall take into account Environment and Climate Change Canada's *Avoidance Guidelines*. The Proponent's actions in applying

the *Avoidance Guidelines* shall be in compliance with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and with the *Species at Risk Act*.

Caribou and Muskoxen Disturbance

21. The Proponent shall avoid interfering with any paths or crossings known to be frequented by caribou during periods of migration as identified by current land use plans in place and/or by Inuit Qaujimaningit.

Road and Ground Disturbance

22. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles unless the ground surface is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles without rutting or gouging. Overland travel of equipment or vehicles must be suspended if rutting occurs.
23. The Proponent shall select a winter route that maximizes the use of frozen water bodies.
24. The Proponent shall not move any equipment or vehicles without prior testing the thickness of the ice to ensure the lake, river or stream is in a state capable of fully supporting the equipment or vehicles.
25. The Proponent shall ensure sufficient thickness of snow and ice is present on the winter road to prevent unnecessary erosion of the underlying ground surface and impact on underneath vegetation.

Land Use and Restoration of Disturbed Areas

26. The Proponent shall use existing trails where possible during project activities on the land.
27. The Proponent shall ensure that the land use area is kept clean and tidy at all times.
28. The Proponent shall remove all garbage, fuel and equipment at the end of each field season and/or upon completion of work and/or upon abandonment.

Marine-Based Activities

29. The Proponent shall, where practicable, coordinate with other vessels to minimize simultaneous vessel traffic in critical wildlife habitat areas allowing the wildlife to continue to use the habitat undisturbed (e.g. Navy Board Inlet, Lancaster Sound, Milne Inlet, Bellot Strait).
30. The Proponent shall not visit cliffs used by nesting and breeding birds during the late afternoon or early evening hours during the months of August and September.
31. The Proponent shall maintain a distance of 100 metres if a Polar Bear is encountered on land or ice while conducting activities from a zodiac or other small craft; all interaction with Polar Bears should be avoided if possible.

Heritage Sites

32. The Proponent shall ensure that archaeological and paleontological sites are not purposely or inadvertently disturbed by clients or staff as a result of project activities.
33. The Proponent shall ensure that all clients and staff are aware of the Proponent's responsibilities and requirements regarding archaeological or palaeontological sites that are encountered during land-based activities. This should include briefings explaining the

prohibitions regarding removal of artifacts, and defacing or writing on rocks and infrastructure.

Other

34. The Proponent should engage with local residents regarding planned activities in the area and should solicit available Inuit Qaujimaningit and information regarding current recreational and traditional usage of the project area which may inform project activities. Posting of translated public notices and direct engagement with potentially interested groups and individuals prior to undertaking project activities is strongly encouraged.
35. The Proponent shall ensure that project activities do not interfere with Inuit wildlife harvesting or traditional land use activities.
36. The Proponent should, to the extent possible, hire local people and access local services where possible.

OTHER NIRB CONCERNS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the project-specific terms and conditions, the Board is recommending the following:

Change in Project Scope

1. Responsible authorities or Proponent shall notify the Nunavut Planning Commission and/or Parks Canada as appropriate, and the NIRB of any changes in operating plans or conditions, including phase advancement, associated with this project prior to any such change.

Copy of licences, etc. to the Board and Commission

2. The NIRB respectfully requests that responsible authorities submit a copy of each licence, permit or other authorization issued for the Project to the NIRB to assist in enabling possible project monitoring that may be required. Please forward a copy of the licences, permits and/or other authorizations to the NIRB directly at info@nirb.ca or upload a copy to the NIRB's online registry at www.nirb.ca.

Use of Inuit Qaujimaningit

3. The Proponent is encouraged to work with local communities and knowledge holders to inform project design, to carry out the project, and to confirm or validate the perspectives represented in publications, and reports as part of the project. Care should be taken to ensure that Inuit Qaujimaningit and local knowledge collected for the project is used with permission and is accurately represented.

Bear and Carnivore Safety

4. The Proponent should review the Government of Nunavut's booklet on Bear Safety, which can be downloaded from this link: http://gov.nu.ca/sites/default/files/bear_safety_-_reducing_bear-people_conflicts_in_nunavut.pdf. Further information on bear/carnivore detection and deterrent techniques can be found in the "*Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country*" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from this link: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/safety_in_grizzly_and_black_bear_country_english.pdf.
5. There are polar bear and grizzly bear safety resources available from the Bear Smart Society with videos on polar bear safety available in English, French and Inuktitut at

<http://www.bearsmart.com/play/safety-in-polar-bear-country/>. Information can also be obtained from Parks Canada's website on bear safety at the following link: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/d.aspx> or in reviewing the "Safety in Polar Bear Country" pamphlet, which can be downloaded from the following link: http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/pn-np/nu/quttinirpaaq/visit/visit6/~media/pn-np/nu/auyuittuq/pdf/shared/PolarBearSafety_English.ashx.

6. Any problem wildlife or any interaction with carnivores should be reported immediately to the local Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment Conservation Office (Conservation Officer of Iqaluit, phone: (867) 975-7788)

Species at Risk

7. The Proponent review Environment and Climate Change Canada's "Environment Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada", available at the following link: http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca/virtual_sara/files/policies/EA%20Best%20Practices%202004.pdf. The guide provides information to the Proponent on what is required when Wildlife at Risk, including *Species at Risk*, are encountered or affected by the project.

Migratory Birds

8. The Proponent review Canadian Wildlife Services' "Key migratory bird terrestrial habitat sites in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/317630/publication.html> and "Key marine habitat sites for migratory birds in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories", available at the following link: <http://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/392824/publication.html>. The guide provides information to the Proponent on key terrestrial and marine habitat areas that are essential to the welfare of various migratory bird species in Canada.
9. For further information on how to protect migratory birds, their nests and eggs when planning or carrying out project activities, consult Environment and Climate Change Canada's Incidental Take web page and the fact sheet "Planning Ahead to Reduce the Risk of Detrimental Effects to Migratory Birds, and their Nests and Eggs" available at: http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2013/ec/CW66-324-2013-eng.pdf.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing constitutes the Board's screening decision with respect to the Royal Roads University's "Namminiqurniq Nunavut Ecosystems Field Course". The NIRB remains available for consultation with the Minister regarding this report as necessary.

Dated September 21, 2026 at Iqaluit, NU.



Albert Ehaloak, Chairperson

Attachments: Appendix A: Species at Risk in Nunavut

APPENDIX A: SPECIES AT RISK IN NUNAVUT

Due to the requirements of Section 79(2) of the *Species at Risk Act*, S.C. 2002, c. 29 (*SARA*), and the potential for project-specific adverse effects on listed wildlife species and its critical habitat, measures should be taken as appropriate to avoid or lessen those effects, and the effects need to be monitored. Project effects could include species disturbance, attraction to operations and destruction of habitat. This section applies to all species listed on Schedule 1 of *SARA*, as listed in the table below, or have been assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which may be encountered in the project area. This list may not include all species identified as at risk by the Territorial Government. The following points provide clarification on the applicability of the species outlined in the table.

- Schedule 1 is the official legal list of Species at Risk for *SARA*. *SARA* applies to all species on Schedule 1. The term “listed” species refers to species on Schedule 1.
- Schedule 2 and 3 of *SARA* identify species that were designated at risk by the COSEWIC prior to October 1999 and must be reassessed using revised criteria before they can be considered for addition to Schedule 1.
- Some species identified at risk by COSEWIC are “pending” addition to Schedule 1 of *SARA*. These species are under consideration for addition to Schedule 1, subject to further consultation or assessment.

If species at risk are encountered or affected, the primary mitigation measure should be avoidance. The Proponent should avoid contact with or disturbance to each species, its habitat and/or its residence. All direct, indirect, and cumulative effects should be considered. Refer to species status reports and other information on the Species at Risk Registry at <http://www.sararegistry.gc.ca> for information on specific species.

Monitoring should be undertaken by the Proponent to determine the effectiveness of mitigation and/or identify where further mitigation is required. As a minimum, this monitoring should include recording the locations and dates of any observations of Species at Risk, behaviour or actions taken by the animals when project activities were encountered, and any actions taken by the proponent to avoid contact or disturbance to the species, its habitat, and/or its residence. This information should be submitted to the appropriate regulators and organizations with management responsibility for that species, as requested.

For species primarily managed by the Territorial Government, the Territorial Government should be consulted to identify other appropriate mitigation and/or monitoring measures to minimize effects to these species from the project.

Mitigation and monitoring measures must be undertaken in a way that is consistent with applicable recovery strategies and action/management plans.

Schedules of *SARA* are amended on a regular basis, so it is important to check the *SARA* registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) to get the current status of a species.

Updated: September 2024

Terrestrial Species at Risk¹	COSEWIC Designation	Schedule of SARA	Government Organization with Primary Management Responsibility²
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Special Concern	Schedule 1	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Common Nighthawk	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Eskimo Curlew	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harlequin Duck	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Harris's Sparrow	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Horned Grebe	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ivory Gull	Endangered	Schedule 1	ECCC
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peregrine Falcon	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red Knot Islandica Subspecies	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Red-necked Phalarope	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Ross's Gull	Threatened	Schedule 1	ECCC
Rusty Blackbird	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Short-eared Owl	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Porsild's Bryum	Threatened	Schedule 1	Government of Nunavut (GN)
Transverse Lady Beetle	Special Concern	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Dolphin and Union Population)	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Caribou (Barren-ground Population)	Threatened	No Schedule	GN
Caribou (Torngat Mountains Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	GN
Grizzly Bear (Western Population)	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Peary Caribou	Endangered	Schedule 1	GN
Polar Bear	Special Concern	Schedule 1	ECCC
Wolverine	Special Concern	Schedule 1	GN
Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
Atlantic Walrus (Central/Low Arctic Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Cumberland Sound Population)	Threatened	Schedule 1	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern Hudson Bay Population)	Endangered	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic-Baffin Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Beluga Whale (Western Hudson Bay Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Atlantic Cod (Arctic Lakes Population)	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO
Fourhorn Sculpin (Freshwater Form)	Data Deficient	Schedule 3	DFO
Lumpfish	Threatened	No Schedule	DFO
Thorny Skate	Special Concern	No Schedule	DFO

¹ The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has responsibility for aquatic species.

² Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has a national role to play in the conservation and recovery of Species at Risk in Canada, as well as responsibility for management of birds described in the Migratory Birds Convention Act (MBCA). Day-to-day management of terrestrial species not covered in the MBCA is the responsibility of the Territorial Government. Populations that exist in National Parks are also managed under the authority of the Parks Canada Agency.