



NIRB File: 26YN041

link: www.nirb.ca/project/126460

Nunavut Planning Commission File No.: 151201

October 8, 2026

To: The Honourable Brian Koonoo
Minister of Environment
Pond Inlet, NU

The Honourable David Akeeagok
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College
Iqaluit, NU

Sent via email: bkoonoo7@gov.nu.ca and dakeeagok7@gov.nu.ca

Re: **Screening Decision for University of Guelph's "Arctic Water Solutions: Harnessing Native Northern Plants for Nature-Based Wastewater Treatment in Canada's Arctic" Project Proposal, Kitikmeot Region**

Dear Honourable Ministers:

On May 7, 2026, the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral pursuant to the Nunavut Agreement and *NuPPAA* to conduct a screening¹ of University of Guelph's "Arctic Water Solutions: Harnessing Native Northern Plants for Nature-Based Wastewater Treatment in Canada's Arctic" 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.: 26YN041 (October 8, 2026)

cc: Regulators
Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
Natalie D'Souza, Department of Environment
Mosha Cote, Nunavut Research Institute
Tracey McCaie, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Marcus Bermann, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Richard Dwyer, Nunavut Water Board
Wenxi Liao, University of Guelph
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