



**NIRB File No.: 17YN008**  
NPC File No.: 148402

March 31, 2017

To: The Honourable Carolyn Bennett  
Minister of Indigenous and Northern  
Affairs  
Government of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable George Kuksuk  
Minister of Culture and Heritage  
Government of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 2410  
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The Honourable Paul Quassa  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut  
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cc: Thomas Kabloona  
Chairperson, Nunavut Water Board  
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**Re: Screening Decision for Geological Survey of Canada's "GEM-2 Boothia-Somerset: Integrated Geosciences along the Northwest Passage" Project Proposal, Kitikmeot Region**

Dear Responsible Ministers:

On January 11, 2017 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen Geological Survey of Canada's (GSC) "GEM-2 Boothia-Somerset: Integrated Geosciences along the Northwest Passage" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), which noted that the project proposal is outside the area of an applicable regional land use plan. 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), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and assigned it file number 17YN008.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of GSC's "GEM-2 Boothia-Somerset: Integrated Geosciences along the Northwest Passage" project is not required pursuant to paragraph 92(1)(a) of the NuPPAA.

Pursuant to its discretion under paragraph 92(2)(a) of the NuPPAA, the NIRB has determined that specific terms and conditions are appropriate for this project.

Accordingly, the NIRB is issuing the attached Screening Decision Report dated March 31, 2017 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB's assessment process, factors relevant for the determining significance of impacts and recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please note that the project proposal will not be enclosed due to the size of the electronic document and the limited bandwidth. However, an electronic copy of the project proposal is accessible online from the NIRB's online public registry at [www.nirb.ca](http://www.nirb.ca) by using any of the following search criteria:

- Project Name: GEM-2 Boothia-Somerset: Integrated Geosciences along the Northwest Passage
- NIRB File No.: 17YN008
- Application No.: 125074

We look forward to receiving a response from the responsible Minister. If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the NIRB's Director, Technical Services, Tara Arko at (867) 983-4611 or [tarko@nirb.ca](mailto:tarko@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Copland, Chairperson  
Nunavut Impact Review Board

Enclosure: Screening Decision Report, NIRB File No.: 17YN008 (March 31, 2017)