



**NIRB File No.: 08YN010**

AANDC File No.: N2011N0019

*Previous NRI File No.: 0200609N-M*

March 15, 2012

The Honourable Dan Shewchuk  
Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Arctic College  
Government of Nunavut  
c/o Mosha Cote, Manager, Research Liaison  
Nunavut Research Institute  
P.O. Box 1720 Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via email: [mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca](mailto:mosha.cote@arcticcollege.ca)

**Re: Application Exempt from the Requirement for Screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA: Luke Copland's "Northern Ellesmere Ice Shelves, Ecosystems and Climate Impacts" project**

Dear Mosha Cote:

On March 08, 2012 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received an application from the Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) for an extension to Luke Copland's (the Proponent) Scientific Research License (NRI File No. 0200609N-M) for the "Northern Ellesmere Ice Shelves, Ecosystems and Climate Change" project proposal.

On February 4, 2008 the NIRB received the original project proposal (NIRB File No. 08YN010) from the NRI. The proposal was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) and on March 26, 2008 the NIRB issued a NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Government of Nunavut, Minister of Education which indicated that the proposed project could proceed subject to the NIRB's recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

Please be advised that this project proposal is related to a general research program conducted by the Proponent and others surveying the surrounding landfast sea ice and ice shelves of Ellesmere Island. Other screenings related to the current project proposal have included NIRB file No. 02YN028.

On December 12, 2008 the NIRB received an amendment application from the NRI which was screened by the Board in accordance with Part 4, Article 12 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). On January 27, 2009 the NIRB issued the enclosed revised NLCA 12.4.4(a) screening decision to the Minister of Education which indicated that the proposed

project could proceed subject to the terms and conditions as originally issued by the NIRB (March 26, 2008 Screening Decision Report) and *additional* recommended project-specific terms and conditions.

The current NRI application, the NIRB Screening Decision Reports for File No. 08YN010 and related file information are available from the NIRB's online public registry at the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/01-SCREENINGS/COMPLETED%20SCREENINGS/2008/08YN010-Luke%20Copland/>.

#### PREVIOUSLY-SCREENED PROJECT PROPOSAL:

As previously screened by the NIRB (File No. 08YN010), the "Northern Ellesmere Ice Shelves, Ecosystems and Climate Impacts" project was located within the Qikiqtani region, approximately 730 kilometres (km) from Grise Fiord. The Proponent indicated that it intended to survey landfast sea ice and ice shelves of Ellesmere Island.

The activities and components associated with the previously screened proposal included:

- Temporary camping;
- Use of aircraft for transport of project personnel;
- Use of on-site mechanized vehicles;
- Sewage or grey water storage and disposal;
- Solid waste disposal;
- Chemical storage;
- Hydrological testing;
- Ecological surveying; and
- Ice thickness radar surveys and shallow ice coring.

The December 12, 2008 amendment application requested a scientific research licence for previously approved and additional project activities for a period of 3 years, from April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2012. In addition to the project components/activities as originally applied for, the amendment proposal included the following additional components and activities:

- 4 project personnel on site for 20 days each year;
- Temporary field camps (tents) established each year;
- Fuel cached for use in subsequent years; and,
- Permanent installation of scientific equipment (weather station and GPS).

#### CURRENT APPLICATION:

Luke Copland is currently proposing to extend the Scientific Research License for this project for an additional six years in order to continue research activities that have been previously screened.

Please note that Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA states that:

*“Any application for a component or activity of a project proposal that has been permitted to proceed in accordance with these provisions shall be exempt from the requirement for screening by NIRB unless:*

*(a) such component or activity was not part of the original project proposal; or*

*(b) its inclusion would significantly modify the project.”*

After completing a review of the information provided in support of the current application, the NIRB is of the understanding that the proposed extension does not change the general scope of the original project activities, and the exceptions noted in NLCA 12.4.3(a) and (b) do not apply. Therefore, this application is exempt from the requirement for screening pursuant to Section 12.4.3 of the NLCA and the activities therein remain subject to the terms and conditions recommended in the revised January 17, 2009 Screening Decision Report (enclosed).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kelli Gillard, Technical Advisor, at (867) 983-4619 or [kgillard@nirb.ca](mailto:kgillard@nirb.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Barry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ryan Barry  
Executive Director

cc: Luke Copland, University of Ottawa  
Jeff Mercer, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Phyllis Beaulieu, Nunavut Water Board  
Robert St. Elroi, Qikiqtani Inuit Association

Enclosed: NIRB Screening Decision Report, File No.: 08YN010 (January 27, 2009)