



**NIRB File No.: 16YN013**  
NPC File No.: 148202

April 24, 2016

To: The Honourable Paul Quassa  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College  
P.O. Box 2410  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Sent via email: [pquassa@gov.nu.ca](mailto:pquassa@gov.nu.ca); [gellsworth@gov.nu.ca](mailto:gellsworth@gov.nu.ca)

Re: **Screening Decision for McGill University's "The beginning of an Era: characterizing the depositional environment of Earth's earliest eukaryotic life" Project Proposal, Qikiqtani Region**

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Dear Mr. Paul Quassa:

On March 17, 2016 the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB or Board) received a referral to screen McGill University's "The beginning of an Era: characterizing the depositional environment of Earth's earliest eukaryotic life" project proposal from the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission).

Pursuant to section 86 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* (NuPPAA), the NIRB commenced screening this project proposal and assigned it file number 16YN013.

Following the assessment of all material information provided, the NIRB is recommending that a review of McGill University's "The beginning of an Era: characterizing the depositional environment of Earth's earliest eukaryotic life" 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 April 24, 2016 to the responsible Minister(s). The Screening Decision Report provides, among other things, the regulatory framework, project overview and the NIRB 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: The beginning of an Era: characterizing the depositional environment of Earth's earliest eukaryotic life
- NIRB File No.: 16YN013
- Application No.: 124637

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.: 16YN013 (April 24, 2016)