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Dear Future Skills Canada,

As the CEO of SmartICE I have had the pleasure of working with Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC) for several years. I am writing today to convey our full support for the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation (QC) – Fisheries Division on their application to Future Skills Centre on Skills Development in northern Canada.

QC strives to make a positive difference for Inuit, communities and the Nunavut economy through dedication and determination to create meaningful employment and business opportunities. Upholding Inuit principles and values, QC and partners are committed to working collaboratively to serve and provide for communities as well as create meaningful economic, employment and career development opportunities. Partnering with communities, QC and partners will expand economic infrastructure that will create employment opportunities for all.

SmartICE has been expanding its training and operational services to meet community needs and address the challenges of a changing climate. Our *Pilimaksaqniq Sikulirijimik* program, meaning “training to be a worker who deals with ice”, is a holistic, culturally contextualized training program that encompasses a broad range of soft and hard skills, is grounded in Inuit Societal Values, and reflects Inuit ways of knowing and learning. It was co-designed with Inuit educational experts and community ice users (i.e., CMCs) to provide the technical knowledge and skills that a Community Operator (Sikuliriji) requires to successfully operate and maintain SmartICE monitoring systems, and to interpret and share the ice information they collect with their community. Two key components of the program are its delivery by Inuit trainers and the incorporation of Inuit Qauijimajatuqangit, both as critical content and learning approach. The *Pilimaksaqniq Sikulirijimik* program offers a wide variety of training that is immediately transferable to other community economic sectors.

SmartICE is a community-oriented organization offering climate change adaption tools, designed to incorporate sea-ice monitoring data with local Indigenous knowledge of sea ice conditions, which can contribute to more informed decisions regarding safe land, water, and sea ice use. SmartICE's remote environmental monitoring systems provide communities invaluable, data-driven insights into sea-ice thickness and local ice conditions in near real-time.

We support and are committed to working with the QC to implement a program that will build local capacity that focuses on skills development. We believe if funded, we can work together to serve as a model for meaningful, culturally appropriate skills development in northern Canada.

Sincerely,



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