



# **DRAFT NUNAVUT LAND USE PLAN**

## ***PUBLIC HEARING***

NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines  
2017

# Industry works within Nunavut's existing Regulatory Regime

- Industry works with, and takes direction from regulators (NIRB and INAC) to ensure any effects of exploration and development are minimized
- NLCA Articles 8 and 9

# Encouraging sustainable economic development

***“It is the objective of the Nunavut Planning Commission that Land Use Planning: ensures that the goals of any proposed restrictions on land use are achieved with the least possible impact on undiscovered mineral resources, while taking into account environmental and social objectives.”***

- NLCA Article 11
- Parnautit Mineral Development Strategy
- A healthy minerals industry and the responsible economic development it can bring is critical to the future economic prosperity of Nunavut.

# Caribou

***[DNLUP section 2.2.1] Core caribou calving areas, key access corridors, and post-calving areas are assigned a Protected Area Land Use Designation that prohibits incompatible uses... this applies to areas that are shown as having high mineral potential...***

- Mining projects may interact with caribou. Caribou protection measures are applied by industry.
- Our industry is leading many efforts in studying and monitoring the effects of exploration and mining activities on caribou.
- Caribou calving grounds are protected and we are committed to respecting and following caribou protection measures.
- Caribou can coexist with a sustainable and beneficial mineral development industry.
- Blocking exploration and mining activities when there is no scientific link to the decline of caribou would unnecessarily compromise the development of other opportunities for Nunavummiut, while not necessarily contributing to better caribou protection.
- Our industry has a track record of managing our interaction with migrating caribou.

# Grandfathering /Existing Rights – minerals

***[DNLUP section 6.5.1] In the mining sector, the notion of grandfathering is complex, as projects move through a number of fairly distinct stages... NPC considers there to be seven (7) distinct stages in Mineral Exploration and Development... the transition from one stage of Mineral Exploration and Development to another may require a new Conformity Determination.***

- If the proposed DNLUP is approved, it could potentially prevent future development of existing claims beyond the exploration stage.
- Grandfathering of existing rights on all stages of mineral exploration and development without exceptions should be included in the DNLUP.

# High mineral potential

- Areas of high mineral potential need to be recognized.
- So much of Nunavut is yet to be explored. Sterilizing these areas will not allow for future discoveries.
- Inuit organizations used high mineral potential as a selection criteria in the lands they chose - reducing access means reducing the value of land they selected.
- Mineral potential assessments are only as good as the knowledge of the time. Future generations may identify new minerals that are essential to society, and new technologies that can allow access to them with minimal disturbance.
- Should preserve flexibility in land use designation to reduce the amount of land taken out of circulation permanently.

# Impacts on mining and economic development

- The proposed changes to the DNLUP could have a significant and long-term negative impact on the economic development of Nunavut.
- Millions of dollars are spent in Nunavut communities each year through jobs, training, taxes, and support for local service industries.
- Because of the uncertainty existing in the DNLUP several companies have opted out of doing further exploration work at this time.
- The current plan will deter investors and reduce the potential for new discoveries that would provide economic benefits to Nunavut.