



February 5, 2015

Peter Thorassie Jr., Chief Negotiator
Sayisi Dene First Nation
Tadoule Lake, MB R0B 2C0
Tel. 204-684-2022
Fax 204-684-2069

Benji Denechezhe, Chief Negotiator
Northlands Denesuline First Nation
Lac Brochet, MB R0B 2E0
Tel 204-337-2270
Fax 204-337-2509

Delivered by Facsimile

Re: Ghotlenene K'odtineh Dene (GKD) correspondence regarding the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP)

Dear Mr Thorassie and Mr. Denechezhe,

Thank you for your December 5, 2014 letter to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). As a follow up to that letter, on January 15, 2015 our staff held a teleconference to hear the concerns raised by your organization.

The NPC appreciates that the Ghotlenene K'odtineh Dene (GKD) have concerns with the proposed land use designations contained in the June 2014 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP). As I indicated in my correspondence to you dated October 31, 2014 the DNLUP is a proposal that will be evaluated as part of a public hearing required under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement section 11.5.4. The public review of the proposed DNLUP provides all planning partners with the opportunity to address the Commission's Board of Directors with any comments on the content of the DNLUP.

During the public hearing, Commissioners expect to hear varying and competing views on the content of the DNLUP. This is typical of land use planning processes. The Commissioners are aware of the concerns raised by the GKD, as well as the unique circumstances of the GKD, who are currently engaged in a Constitutional process of concluding a land claims agreement within the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The NPC continues to work with the Minister's office in hopes of confirming a date for the public hearing. In the interim, the land use planning process for the DNLUP is currently suspended.

The NPC acknowledges that when staff prepared the June 2014 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan, a Protected Area designation was proposed for the lands withdrawn under Order in Council #PC 2013-0625. It is now understood that the GKD believe including the withdrawn lands as a proposed Protected Area in the DNLUP will hinder the conclusion of the land claims negotiation process. Given the very unique Constitutional process which the GKD are currently concluding, the Commission is providing this notation for the public record:

Notation: The area of land withdrawn under Order in Council #PC 2013-0625 will be considered and presented during the public hearing on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan as an area of Mixed Use. The area will be re-evaluated in light of any representations that may be made during the public hearing. Following the public hearing, the Commission will revise the draft plan to reflect the most appropriate land use designation to manage the areas.

It is important that the land use planning process is fair to all interested parties. The NPC welcomes the views of the GKD as well as all other interested parties during the land use planning process. The NPC will continue to catalogue and make publically available all input received on the June 2014 DNLUP as part of the consultation record.

In closing, the Commission continues to work with the AANDC Minister and had a productive meeting with him and his senior staff last week. We remain hopeful that we should hear over the coming weeks from the Ministers Office and that the DNLUP public hearing will be concluded in the near future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hunter Tootoo', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hunter Tootoo, Chairperson

cc. Arne Peltz, Legal Counsel for the GKD
Sharon Ehaloak, NPC Executive Director
Alan Blair, Legal Counsel for the NPC
Andrew Walker, Chief Federal Negotiator, AANDC