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Terry Audla, Executive Director  
Qikiqtani Inuit Association  
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Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

## **RE: Issues, Vision and Goals for the Nunavut Land Use Planning Process**

Dear Terry,

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) is beginning work on a new land use planning process which will result in a single Nunavut Land Use Plan with regional components as envisioned under section 11.5.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). We would like to invite QIA to provide input into the regional visions and goals to guide this process, and identify priority issues you would like the Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP) to address over the coming years.

### **Background**

This new planning process reflects a shift in NPC from regional planning to a single Nunavut Land Use Plan. There are several reasons for this. First, Section 11.5.1 requires the development of a Nunavut Land Use Plan, with regional or subregional components. Secondly, NPC has approved plans in place for only 2 of the 6 planning regions, both of which are overdue for review. At the current pace, it could take decades to complete and update plans for all 6 regions, during which time land use activities will continue without the direction and coordination that plans are meant to provide. Thirdly, during the January 2005 public hearing on the West Kitikmeot Plan, both INAC and NTI directed NPC to develop the Nunavut Land Use Plan to guide land use decisions across all of Nunavut, and to provide an overall framework to coordinate regional planning activities. While earlier development pressures led to the regional planning approach, the priority now is to get a land use plan in place for all of Nunavut as soon as possible.

Given that a comprehensive planning process can take years to complete, NPC is pursuing a phased approach that will allow us to develop the NLUP in increments. NPC envisions building the NLUP over the next few years, which establishes the administrative framework for planning, provides broad direction on a few priority issues, and includes existing regional plans with any required amendments. This initial plan would be submitted for approval upon completion. Following submission, NPC would continue work on the more complex Nunavut-wide issues

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requiring more time and research, and resume work on the regional components. As subsequent phases are completed, these would be submitted for approval as amendments to the initial NLUP. This approach is described in more detail in the NLUP Preliminary Scoping Paper.

Land use planning is an opportunity to increase regulatory efficiency in Nunavut. In the absence of land use plans, many issues are raised in project-specific reviews that are better suited to land use planning. By addressing such issues through land use plans and providing clear direction, we can reduce the number or complexity of issues raised in later stages of the regulatory process, and provide a framework for more consistent, coordinated decision-making to achieve larger goals.

### **Required Action**

NPC is requesting input from the Qikitani Inuit Association to identify visions, goals and priority land use issues for the planning regions within its jurisdiction (North and South Baffin, the eastern portion of the Akunnig region and Sanikiluaq) which will “protect and promote the existing and future well being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands”. The vision, goals and issues identified in collaboration with our planning partners will guide planning activities and land use decisions for the foreseeable future.

Given the need to complete a Nunavut Land Use Plan as soon as possible, NPC is not planning on doing a comprehensive review of existing plans at this time. However, it is important that we “take a pulse” to determine whether the vision, objectives and terms described in Chapter 3 of the current North Baffin Plan are still appropriate. There is an opportunity to amend existing plans as part of NLUP development, providing agreement can be reached on the necessary changes. Therefore, we are requesting that you review the Plan and identify if the vision, objectives or any of the Conformity Requirements, Actions and Recommendations (summarized in Appendices C, D, and E) need revision. Completing this review may assist you in identifying a current vision, goals and priorities for the region.

We are planning a workshop for late fall to bring NTI, the RIAs, INAC and the GN together to discuss vision, goals and planning issues, and set planning priorities for the initial phase of the NLUP. As a result we need to receive input into vision, goals and planning issues by **October 26<sup>th</sup>**.

I will follow-up with you next week to discuss this in further detail and answer any questions you may have. Please contact me any time at (867) 983-4631 or [hwiebe@npc.nunavut.ca](mailto:hwiebe@npc.nunavut.ca) should you have any immediate questions or concerns.

Respectfully,



Heidi Wiebe  
Policy Specialist