



## **Speaking Notes BC Round up, Vancouver, January 30, 2008**

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### **Introduction**

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### **Presentation Overview**

Our presentation today will include:

- a review of the role of Nunavut Planning Commission.
- an overview of our commitment to Governance.
- an explanation of Land Use Planning under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.
- a presentation on the broad land use planning goals developed for Nunavut.
- a description of how we intend to complete land use planning for Nunavut.

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### **Role of the Nunavut Planning Commission**

The Nunavut Planning Commission is a public agency with its roles and responsibilities set out under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), Article 11, Land Use Planning.

The Commission is a co-management organization with decision making responsibilities protected under the NLCA. The NPC consults with government, Inuit organizations and many different organizations but it is the Commission's responsibilities to make the final decisions on how land use plans will be developed and how the plans will manage the land in Nunavut. Once these decisions are made the plans are sent to Government for approval. We also include Nunavut Tunngavik and the RIAs in the approval process.

As a co-management regime we have members appointed by Nunavut Tunngavik, the three Regional Inuit Associations, the Government of Canada

and Government of Nunavut.

The Nunavut Planning Commission has a mandate under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to prepare and implement land use plans that guide and direct resource use and development.

Land use plans do not tell Inuit where to camp or hunt. Land use plans tell others how Inuit want the land and water used today and into the future.

The NPC plans for land outside of community boundaries. The Hamlets are responsible for preparing their own community plans.

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### **Governance**

As a public agency the Commissioners are committed to a results-based-governance model that identifies roles, responsibilities and accountabilities and are committed to governing with excellence.

#### Mission Statement

Leading the way through land use planning for Nunavummiut.

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### **Strategic Plan 2006 - 2016**

The Commission has in place a Strategic Plan that describes the future direction, activities, and forecasts the budgetary requirements of the NPC for fiscal years 2006 through 2016 inclusive.

This plan outlines an ambitious strategy for the Commission over the next decade, including our need to:

- Strengthen our Governance Leadership;
- Implement measures to ensure the financial integrity of the organization;
- Identify our ten-year funding requirements, and
- Complete the Nunavut Land Use Plan in a timely manner.

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### **Land Use Planning Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement**

Land use plans apply to land, water and resources, and they consider the social, cultural, economic and environmental concerns associated with land use.

Under the NLCA, land includes freshwater, salt water and resources. Resources include fish, wildlife, minerals, oil and gas, other forms of energy like hydro power, gravel, tourism sites, etc.

Land use planning is important because people use the land, water and wildlife for different reasons.

Sometimes people disagree on how the land should be used. People might not want a mine built because it is where they go hunting and / or the area might have cultural importance. Land use planning works to solve these disagreements.

Land use plans in Nunavut deal with how resources will be used and how the land, water and Inuit culture will be protected as development occurs.

The Commission has land use planners that work with our planning partners to find out where the important areas are located. These areas are put on maps.

Planners also work with your communities, hunters and trappers, government, industry and others to make maps. These maps tell people how the land is being used today and what types of things might happen in the future.

Land use plans must protect the rights of Inuit set out under the NLCA. For instance land use plans must:

- Devote special attention to protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands;
- Reflect the priorities and values of residents;
- Take into account cultural factors and priorities;
- Give great weight to the views and wishes of the municipalities;
- Be consistent with NLCA Article 5, Wildlife and Article 7 Outpost Camps, and
- Take into account Inuit goals and objectives for Inuit Owned Lands.

Land use plans bring many different people to the table to talk about how to balance development with protection of the environment and the values and priorities of residents. By working together we can use land use plans to identify what types of land use communities support, where it should occur, and how it should occur.

The money that comes from developing resources and the jobs that are created are worth billions of dollars. These land uses provide benefits today, tomorrow and into the future.

A good land use plan sets the minimum requirement for how development of the land should proceed. Plans bring the community voice into the decision making process so regulators and land users will address the concerns of Nunavummiut.

Approved land use plans tell government, the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Nunavut Water Board, RIA land managers and developers which types of development are appropriate, and identify key goals and issues for communities.

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### **Land Use Plans Set Rules**

Land use plans (plans) establish rules about how the land will be used. The plans tell government and others about places that communities do not want changed and the goals and values of Nunavummiut and their communities.

Once land use plans are approved the plans help protect places important to Inuit and make sure there are places for mines and other businesses so we can have jobs.

Land use plans tell others how Nunavummiut want the land and water used today and into the future.

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### **What happens after the plan is finished?**

A plan is finished when it is approved by Inuit and government. Once plans are approved everyone has to follow them. Land use plans are reviewed every 5 years but people can ask to have them changed at anytime. The Commission will work with you to update the plans.

Where a land use plan exists, the Commission checks all projects to make sure they follow the rules in the plan. This is called a conformity determination.

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### **Some Benefits of Land Use Planning**

By establishing rules land use plans tell others how Nunavummiut want the land and water used today and into the future.

The implementation of approved plans brings the community voice and collective wisdom of Inuit and other residents to land use decisions to ensure that future development achieves your long term goals. Plans increase investment and promote development that communities support. Industry supports land use planning because plans tell industry where they can and cannot go and sets clear rules for development. This allows industry to invest in areas where residents will support development.

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## **Broad Land Use Planning Goals**

Before proceeding with the Nunavut Land Use Plan we need to have broad land use planning policies, objectives and goals in place to guide our work.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Article 11.4.1(a) states that:

*The Nunavut Planning Commission shall be established with the major responsibilities to: Establish broad planning policies, objectives and goals for the Nunavut Settlement Area in conjunction with Government.*

We are pleased to inform you that the Commission will be reviewing and approving our 11.4.1(a) document at our Commission meeting next month.

We have 5 broad goals for land use planning in Nunavut. These goals form the foundation from which the Nunavut Land Use Plan will be built.

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### ***Goal 1 - Strengthening Partnership and Institutions***

This means recognizing and respecting the mandates and jurisdictions of all participants; decision making through discussion and consensus; and working together for a common cause through the integration and application of the principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, (IQ).

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### ***Goal 2 - Protecting and Sustaining the Environment***

The goal of protecting and conserving Nunavut's wildlife, air, land and water is of critical importance for the future well-being of Nunavut's communities and Inuit culture. Through the land use plan we can create rules to ensure that development occurs in a responsible manner.

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### ***Goal 3 - Encouraging Conservation Planning***

The purpose of conservation planning is to protect the natural environment, culturally significant areas and special places for the benefit of Nunavummiut and all Canadians. Parks and Conservation Areas may be established through legislation. Other areas of interest may be protected through rules in the land use plan.

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#### ***Goal 4 - Building Healthy Communities***

The primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the NLCA is to protect and promote the well-being of Nunavut's residents and communities. The NPC works extensively with communities to develop plans that promote their interests as they define them.

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#### ***Goal 5 - Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development***

A primary goal of the NLCA is to create economically self-sufficient communities based on a long-term, healthy, sustainable renewable and non-renewable resource economy. The Nunavut Land Use Plan will encourage a range of economic sectors such as renewable resources, tourism, energy development, mining and oil and gas.

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#### **The Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals guide the work of the NPC**

These 5 goals will guide our Land Use Planning in Nunavut. They are the foundation of the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

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#### **Building the Nunavut Land Use Plan**

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires the Commission to develop a Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP). The NLUP will manage land use at 3 levels: areas around your community, the regions, and all of Nunavut. We build the plan by talking to communities to learn what their goals and concerns are for the land lying outside their Hamlet boundaries. We talk to the Regional Inuit Associations to see what goals and issues are important across each of the regions, and we talk to NTI to see which goals and issues are common to all of Nunavut. As a public agency we have the same discussions with government, industry and other interested groups.

- A Nunavut issue could be the need to ensure that Inuit benefit from development.
- A regional issue could be the need to protect the floe edge.
- A community issue might be the need to protect their water supply that comes from outside the Hamlet boundaries.

Land use plans take a long time to develop. We have to talk to a lot of

people and do a lot of research to understand the different land uses, the issues and find a way to solve these issues. Nunavut cannot wait 8 more years for a land use plan. If there is no land use plan, there is no direction for industry and government about how communities want to see the land managed.

To get land use plans in place for all of Nunavut quickly the NPC will be building the plan in stages. We already have approved plans for the North Baffin, Kivalliq, a draft plan in the West Kitikmeot and have completed planning work in the South Baffin. All of this work will be up dated and brought into the Nunavut Land Use Plan. We want to understand the goals and set broad direction for all of Nunavut based on this information to begin to promote community interests as soon as possible. We can do this in a few years. Once the broad Nunavut Land Use Plan is approved we will continue to work at the 3 levels – Nunavut wide, Regional and Community to complete more detailed planning on the difficult issues where getting agreement on how to manage the issues might be more challenging. Then as we complete more research and consultations and we find solutions to the more complex issues, we will update the plan to reflect what we've learned.,.

Building the Nunavut Land Use Plan is like building an igloo.

- 1 First we need to select an area with the right kind of snow. This is the broad land use planning policies, objectives and goals for the Nunavut Settlement Area. [This is completed]
- 2 Then we have to decide how big the igloo will be. This is the identification of land use planning issues and goals for the regions and communities. The blocks of snow represent the issues and goals. The bigger the igloo, the bigger the blocks of snow and the longer it takes to build the igloo. Likewise, the bigger the issues the longer it takes to find solutions and the longer it takes to complete the land use plan.
- 3 Then we start to cut the blocks and put them around the outside. Then we build the walls and roof. This represents the general Nunavut wide land use plan. It is important to make certain the slant on the blocks is cut right so the blocks of snow will fit together. It is also important that the broad Nunavut Land Use Plan supports the main issues and goals of the regions and communities so that our future land use planning work fits within the NLUP.
- 4 Finally the building of the bed and floor represents the fine detail of the NLUP where all of the complex regional and community issues are resolved and added to the NLUP.

In summary the broad NLUP will include regional and community land use planning issues. What we are doing differently is that we are not delaying completing the NLUP for years while our many planning partners debate complex land use planning issues. We are taking the planning work we have completed, updating the issues and goals and where there is agreement right now preparing to submit that plan for approval. As the complicated issues are resolved we will revise, update and add to the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

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In closing the Nunavut Planning Commission is committed to:

- Governing with Excellence
- Implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Approving the Broad land use planning policies, objectives and goals, and
- Completing the Nunavut Land Use Plan quickly through a series of strategic steps.

We look forward to working with you as we advance this exciting land use planning initiative.

Thank you