



P.O. Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
☎ 867-983-4625
📠 867-983-4626

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Geoff Clark
Director of Lands, Environment and Resources
Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Box 360, Kugluktuk, NU X0B 0E0

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

Dear Geoff,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity last week to update you on NPC's activities and approach for a Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP). I promised to follow up with a letter inviting KIA's input into land use issues, vision and goals to guide the planning process over the coming years.

As I mentioned, the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) is beginning work on a new land use planning process for all of Nunavut, 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).

There is a need to have a plan in place as soon as possible so NPC can fulfill its regulatory role in Nunavut. 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 basic administrative components of the NLUP over the next few years, which incorporates broad direction on a few priority issues, includes existing regional plans, and any required amendments. This plan would be submitted for approval upon completion. NPC would then continue work to advance more complex Nunavut-wide issues requiring more time and research, and resume work on 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.

NPC looks to KIA to identify a vision, goals and priority issues for the West Kitikmeot region and the western portion of the Akunnig region to guide planning activities and decisions within the Kitikmeot. Given the work that went into the West Kitikmeot Plan, we would use components of that plan as the basis for the West Kitikmeot component of the Nunavut Land Use Plan. As we discussed, it is important that we "take a pulse" to determine whether the direction provided in the most recent draft is still appropriate. Reviewing the vision, goals and issues put

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forth in that draft may assist you in identifying current priorities for the region today. I appreciate your offer to review and comment on the plan's relevance.

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.

In our discussion, you indicated that land use plans should be constrained to broad issues, as KIA already has considerable authority over its own lands. In John Donihee's words (who joined our discussion briefly), there is a need to define what a land use plan is and what it is not. I agree that this is very important. Therefore, during your review of the Draft West Kitikmeot plan, it could be helpful to also identify issues you feel the plan should not deal with, for clarity.

As I mentioned, 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 from participating organizations by **October 26th**. If this timeframe presents challenges for you then please give me a call so we can discuss alternatives.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss KIA's input, please contact me at (867) 983-4631 or hwiebe@npc.nunavut.ca.

Respectfully,



Heidi Wiebe
Policy Specialist