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NUNAVUT WATER BOARD
NUNAVUT IMALIRIYIN KATIMAYINGI
OFFICE DES EAUX DU NUNAVUT

April 8, 2010

Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0
Facsimile: 867.983.4626

Attention: Mr. Ron Roach, Chairperson

Subject: Watersheds in the Nunavut Settlement Area

Dear Chairperson Roach,

As noted in your recent invitation to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB) and the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB), the NWB, like all IPGs, is committed to supporting the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) as you develop the Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP). The NWB recognizes the crucial role of integrated land planning and welcomes the opportunity to work with the NPC and NIRB in this regard.

In determining the NWB's role in the NLUP, the NWB must also take into consideration that the NWB's involvement with the planning process is actually statutorily mandated under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* (NLCA). Specifically, Section 13.4.1 of the NLCA states:

The NWB shall contribute fully to the development of land use plans as they concern water in the Nunavut Settlement Area by providing its recommendations to the NPC.

Reflecting this statutory mandate, the NWB is not only interested in participating as an IPG, but is required to do so. To date, the NWB has had very limited engagement in the NLUP development process. As a result, the NWB is not familiar with the NPC's overall development process for the NLUP, nor how the NPC envisions incorporating the NWB recommendations concerning water into that process. Accordingly the NWB would appreciate receiving more detail on the proposed NLUP process so that the NWB can ensure that our inputs into the development process fulfill our statutory mandate. As indicated in my previous letter in April 2009, the NWB would also appreciate your direction regarding the timelines for the NWB's involvement in the overall NLUP development process so that we can ensure that we have the resources and time to contribute fully to the NLUP development process in accordance with our obligations.

In formulating recommendations concerning water, the NWB will engage stakeholders, such as municipalities and Indian and Northern Affairs, with a significant interest in water management in Nunavut. As NPC may also be engaging these stakeholders in the NLUP process, clarification of the process may also permit us to work together to gather input from these stakeholders in a coordinated manner. We have no desire to duplicate effort on the part of these participants or NPC, and look forward to, where possible, streamlining and co-ordinating our contributions to the NLUP development process with these other participants.

In respect of the NWB's contributions to the NLUP development process, I also wanted to point out that recently, as part of the development of the draft *Nunavut Water Regulations*; the Nunavut Water Regulations Development Working Group has identified 65 water management areas that may be useful referents for the NPC in their development of the NLUP. The NWB would welcome the opportunity to discuss these water management areas with you, as they may be of assistance in respect of some of the specific questions you raised in your letter.

With respect to the NPC's specific request for input regarding the management of community water supply watersheds, I can advise that once the NWB has a better understanding of the general status of the NLUP development and the NLUP development process, as well as the NWB's involvement in that process, I will be better able to comment on the NWB's ability to respond to this specific request in accordance with the April timeline set out in your letter.

The NWB looks forward to your clarification with respect to timelines and the NWB's involvement in the NLUP development process going forward. If you have questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact Dionne Filiatrault, Executive Director at dionne@nunavutwaterboard.org.

Yours truly,

Thomas Kabloona
Nunavut Water Board, Chair

Cc. Lucassie Arragutainaq, NIRB Chair