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Tuglaq Ministam, Avatiliqiyikkut

Deputy Minister, Department of Environment

Sous-ministre, Ministère de l'Environnement

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OCT 29 2010

Sharon Ehaleak *Sharon*
Executive Director, Nunavut Planning Commission
PO Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut X0B 0C0

Via Email:

RE: Government of Nunavut Response of the Working Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Dear Sharon,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I would like to thank the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP). Attached to this letter you will find the consolidated GN review and recommendations.

In our review of the Draft NLUP, the GN focused much of its attention on how the draft plan meets the policies, objectives and goals of the "NPC 11.4.1(a) Broad Planning Policies, Objectives, and Goals" document. As you are aware, this document was derived from the objectives of NLCA Article 11, and was approved by NPC and the Government of Nunavut in 2007. That document, which was developed cooperatively by the NPC, GN, GoC and NTI, provides the agreed upon framework for land use planning in the territory and includes 100+ policy directives on both the content and process by which the NLUP would be developed.

Consensus was reached among GN departments that as standalone documents, the Draft NLUP and Implementation Strategy do not provide a clear picture of how they meet the requirements of NLCA Article 11, nor how they meet the policy directives of 11.4.1(a). We determined that there is currently insufficient information to make the plan a useful tool to guide those who plan to develop or utilize the land.

In order for the Draft NLUP to be useful to communities, land users, land owners, and decision makers, we feel that the plan must contain more than a pictorial representation of the lay-out of important areas, mineral deposits, and wildlife. The NLUP should, at a minimum, provide a reader with contextual information about the meaning of what is represented in the maps, as well as elaborated instructions on how to use and interpret the plan.

In effect, the land use plan should provide a description of the planning area including essential baseline information on the people, land, environment, resources, and economy of the territory; identify priority land use issues associated with the area (such as those compiled by the NPC in 2009); and provide essential policy direction to the reader (such as those stated in Government strategies/policies).

For this reason, the GN chose to expand its review to include other NPC documents such as those found on the NPC website, and previous correspondence. We believe that these additional sources of information demonstrate the Commission's intentions for the approach to land use planning, and the process being followed to develop the NLUP; however this information is not articulated in the current Draft NLUP or Implementation Strategy.

In order to assist the NPC in revising the NLUP, we have included detailed recommendations on what information the land use plan should contain, and what factors to take into account in the establishment of objectives and guidelines for development. Where applicable, the GN has identified existing policy direction that should be included in the NLUP; or, pointed out where it can provide assistance to NPC to complete the required information.

At this time, the GN recommends that NPC revise the Draft NLUP based on the current feedback from all stakeholders including those recently received from GN, the GoC, the NWB and NIRB. Upon development of a revised Draft NLUP, the GN recommends that NPC provide stakeholders with the revised draft for review prior to initiating public consultations.

Over the past 10 years, our government has worked hard to ensure the delivery of our programs and services are guided by Inuit Societal Values. We believe that "Piliriatigiinniq/ Ikajuqtigiinniq," working together, and "Ajiqatigiinniq," decision making by consensus, are two important success factors for any multi-stakeholder project. These important principles were successfully applied in the past by the NPC, GN, GoC and NTI in the development of the 11.4.1(a) Policies, Objectives & Goals. We believe that these principles could also be applied in the present situation to support the NPC in the completion of the NLUP. If the NPC is interested in again pursuing a more formal working agreement to streamline stakeholder participation in the development of the NLUP, then the GN would be willing to discuss this approach.

Qujannamiik,



David Akeeagok
Deputy Minister of Environment

CC:

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