



November 15, 2010

David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister
Government of Nunavut
Department of Environment
Box 1000, Stn. 1300
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via Electronic Mail

Re: Working Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Dear David,

Thank you for your October 29, 2010 submission on the Working Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan dated June 17th, 2010. We appreciate the insights the Government of Nunavut (GN) has provided. As I indicated during our meeting October 22, 2010 the Commission has already addressed many of the questions raised regarding the working draft plan. For clarity the Commission will utilize a traditional book format for the land use plan similar to those regional land use plans developed historically in Northern Canada.

Our NLUP Consultation Record dated, current to June 2010 is available on our website <http://www.nunavut.ca/en/about-commission/important-information>. I would encourage the GN to review and become familiar with the numerous opportunities and various means the Commission has utilized to encourage our planning partners to provide input into the land use planning process

At the outset of the land use planning process the GN, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) agreed that the process would not be stalled because certain data or expert advice was unavailable. The Commission has extended the timeline for the collection of data and expert advice on two occasions to allow Government and in particular the GN more time to provide input, however despite the addition of nearly 12 months to our data collection activities the GN has not responded to our request for expert advice. The outstanding request for expert advice are

identified in the Commission's NLUP Issues and Priorities Compilation document located at:
<http://www.nunavut.ca/en/about-commission/important-information>

It is important to note that we have been compiling data and expert advice for 3 years. When expert departments have not provided data or management direction this impedes the ability of the Commission to manage specific land uses and to fully implement our Broad Planning, Objectives and Goals. For example the Commission developed an Issues and Priorities Document in January 2009. The Commission requested data from the GN DOE in March, April, June and September 2009. These request for expert advice were followed up with GN staff in May, and formally again in June and October 2010. To date the GN DOE has not responded to our request for additional information and expert advice. You may be interested to know that Section 197(1) of the Draft Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) states that:

197. (1) If a regulatory authority or a department or agency or municipality that is not a regulatory authority is in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge, including traditional knowledge, it must, at the request of the Commission, a responsible authority, the Board, a federal environmental assessment panel, a joint panel or the responsible Minister, as the case may be, make that information or knowledge available to them if they require it to exercise their powers or perform their duties or functions.

I would also like to clarify the purpose of the Commission's Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals. As the title and content suggests this document contains the **broad parameters which guide** the land use planning activities of the Commission. The document also indicates that the land use planning process is based upon acquiring the "best available" scientific knowledge and community information. Our broad guidelines also recognise that there will be data and knowledge gaps and that the GN, INAC and NTI agreed the plan needs to be developed in a timely manner despite possible gaps in our knowledge regarding the management of lands and resources.

On a final note the GN submission on the working draft Nunavut Land Use Plan contained survey results from an internal GN evaluation of the Commission's Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals. In our view the survey results, in their present form do not accurately reflect the land use planning activities of the Commission. Additionally as you know the DOE has acted as the single contact and liaison between the Commission and Government of Nunavut during the formulation of the Nunavut Land Use Plan. Our interpretation of the survey results suggests that the DOE has been unsuccessful in engaging and informing their GN constituent departments. The Commission finds the level of awareness illustrated by GN respondents surprising. In order to rectify this situation the NPC will need to review the DOE internal engagement strategy and consultation record as it relates to your staff's efforts to disseminate information and engage GN departments over the past 3 years. We will require this information prior to the Commission meeting December 3, 2010. As this material is to be reviewed by the Commission we require that the submission be translated into Inuktitut.

Recognizing that the Commission is finalizing a draft land use plan it is imperative that GN Departments be informed so staff can participate in a meaningful manner. In order to ensure the GN Departments are actively involved in the review of the Draft NLUP the Commission will begin working directly with the relevant GN Department Deputy Ministers and Ministers. As such, the pressures on the DOE to act as the single liaison will be lessened over the coming months.

In closing, we look forward to working with the GN and our other valued planning partners as we begin our work to promote public examination of the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan in accordance with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Draft NUPPAA. The Commission will continue to provide opportunities for the GN and other planning partners to fill knowledge gaps over the coming year as the Commission solicits written and oral comments on the draft land used plan.

To facilitate the Commission's direct engagement of relevant GN Departments we would like to extend an invitation to present the details of our land use planning process and Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan to the GN Sustainable Development Committee early in the New Year. I look forward to your support of our requests as we work to ensure GN Departments and Ministers are fully informed on the Nunavut land use planning process over the coming months.

Respectfully,



Sharon Ehaloak,
Executive Director

cc. Ron Roach, Chairperson, Nunavut Planning Commission
Paul Quassa, Vice Chairperson, Nunavut Planning Commission
Markus Weber, Deputy Minister, Executive, GN
Janet Slaughter, Deputy Minister, Justice
Kathleen Lausman, Deputy Minister, Community and Government Services
Robert Long, Deputy Minister, Economic Development and Tourism
Aluki Rojas, Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Affairs
Peter Ma, Deputy Minister, Finance
Simon Awa, Deputy Minister, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth
Alex Campbell, Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services
Robin Aitkin, Regional Director General, INAC
Joe Kunuk, Chief Executive Officer, NTI