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Your file - Votre référence

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8505-1-2

May 12th, 2011

Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut
X0B 0C0

Via electronic mail to: sehaloak@nunavut.ca

Re: Working Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Workshop

Dear Ms. Ehaloak:

Thank you for the invitation letter which I received on May 2nd, to participate in a workshop to be held by the Nunavut Planning Commission to discuss matters pertaining to the formulation of a land use plan for the Nunavut Settlement Area. In this letter you listed six broad topics of discussion, but the letter did not provide any information on what aspects of those topics you wish to discuss, or what outcomes the workshop might produce.

As we discussed on May 11th, INAC is pleased to see the Commission engaging with parties to progress in the development of a plan. However, the invitation letter did not provide us with enough information to determine what the Government of Canada participants should be prepared to discuss with Commission staff, or what the staff expect the participants to contribute to the proposed workshop.

In order to be productive, participation in a workshop such as the one you have proposed will require focused preparation by participants. To enable this, participants will require a detailed agenda, as well as specific and focused information on what particular aspects of the broad topics you propose to discuss. In order for us to develop a well-considered response to your invitation, and to allow participants to assist in developing a meaningful agenda, I ask that you provide us with the following information for each of the six broad topics you have identified:

1. With respect to each of the six broad topics, what specific questions do Commission staff propose to discuss?



2. Does Commission staff plan to share new information or new proposed land use management approaches? Or is the purpose to discuss further the existing information and planning approach?

(i) If Commission staff propose to raise new information or new approaches, when will that information or proposed approach be shared with participants, in order for participants to prepare in advance for the workshop?

(ii) If the purpose is to discuss further the existing Commission materials and planning approach, or the existing written feedback, when can Commission staff describe with more specificity their information needs, in order for participants to prepare in advance for the workshop?

3. For each of the six broad topics, what information or expertise does Commission staff expect participants to contribute to the discussions?

4. What specific expertise does Commission staff expect will be relevant to the proposed discussion? (e.g. species biologists, policy expertise, regulatory system expertise, planning process, etc.)

5. What does Commission staff expect the specific outcomes to be with respect to each proposed topic?

6. In a more global sense, what does Commission staff see as the expected outcomes of the proposed workshop?

With respect to any new material the Commission staff may propose to discuss, it would be beneficial that any new materials are shared with participants well in advance of any proposed workshop. This will allow participants to review the materials and prepare for the discussion, which is likely to require internal consultation within each participating organisation.

With respect to the materials that have already been shared by the Commission, as you are aware, the several federal departments actively participating with your Commission have given detailed feedback on all such materials. This feedback was of course relevant to the broad topics identified in your letter of invitation. We held a subsequent meeting in Iqaluit on April 7th specifically to enable Commission staff to seek any required clarification of Canada's written responses. We look forward to receiving a response from NPC on this feedback, and respectfully request that you indicate when we can expect the Commission staff to indicate how they propose to take into account the existing feedback from the Government of Canada, the Government of Nunavut, and all others who have responded to the Commission's requests for feedback.

With additional clarification on the above and sufficient time for participants to prepare, I believe the workshop can be more successful. Additionally, and I did not mention this during our call, once clarification is provided, the feasibility of federal departments' participation in a workshop held on the proposed dates will be more easily determined.



Canada is committed to working with the Commission towards the creation of opportunities to progress further in the development of a land use plan for the Nunavut Settlement Area, and we would be pleased to continue discussions in this respect.

Sincerely,

[original signed by]

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