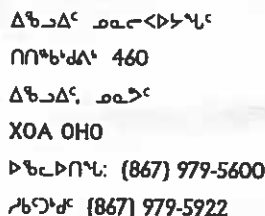


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The City appreciates that NPC wants to complete and approve the Nunavut Land Use Plan within its stated schedule but if the majority of communities and key stakeholders are not fully engaged, confident or approve the Plan, then I would hope the Commission would reconsider, amend the schedule and extend the deadline for review and approve.

Is NPC able to present the draft plan to the City's Land and Planning Committee, early in the new year?

At the November meeting, NPC referred to a “rationalization document” and we’re wondering when this will be made available. It is very difficult for parties to comment on the current draft without knowing the rationale behind the changes from the 2014 land use plan.

NPC could seek municipal, HTO, CLARC, RIAs and NTI motions for approval of the Nunavut Land Use Plan, this is similar to what is required for research projects by the Nunavut Research Institute.

Hardcopies

NPC informed attendees that they would have to produce and provide 100+ hardcopies of our submission. While the City of Iqaluit has more resources than the smaller communities, 100+ copies of our submission is significant.

I requested a copy of the NPC land use plan at the November 10th meeting, only to find out that NPC had not provided any of the 30+ participants and attendees copies. Instead, what was handed out were three-page summary documents.

Translation

NPC also informed participants that if they produce written submissions to NPC that they are required to translate them and provide all documentation in the four languages: English, Inuktitut, French and Inuinnaqtun. The cost of translation is not insignificant, especially into Inuinnaqtun. There are very few Inuinnaqtun translators and they are overwhelmed with the sheer number of translation requests. As a result, the cost for Inuinnaqtun translation is very expensive.

The short-time frame, lack of capacity, print copies and translation requirements may cause some communities not to provide submissions to NPC – which would be a tremendous shame. The communities should be adequately supported and encourage to provide as much information and feedback into the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Community Support via NAM & Funding Proposal





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The City understands the NAM proposal to INAC has been rejected, on the basis that NPC was provided funding for community consultations. Does NPC have a historical summary of consultations done in the communities, in particular, in Iqaluit for Iqaluit? Is there any documents from those consultations that NPC can share with the City?

Commissioners at Community Meetings & Consultations

I was surprised that the NPC Commissioners were not in attendance at the November 10th, 2016 meeting in Iqaluit. It was explained by staff and legal counsel that they will attend the final hearing. In addition, that there is an expectation that they do not want to bias themselves by hearing the applicants or community members before their hearing. But that the Commissioners would be provided transcripts of these meetings.

I know that there is tremendous value and need for Commissioners to attend community meetings and consultations, so that they can hear the community members directly. There is a lot of nuance that is lost in transcription. Also some stakeholders especially community members expect and want to have direct engagement with decision-makers. They want to ensure that their questions, comments and concerns are “heard” and “known” by Commissioners. Also there is uncertainty and incredulity that all the Commissioners will read these meeting transcripts. I can appreciate that sentiment, as I know I’d rather have heard these comments and be able to go back to transcripts to job my memory, clarify or verify my recollections.

Also several people expressed concern that the staff and legal counsel are leading or overly influencing the community meetings and consultation process. I’m not stating that is true or not, but that is the perception because the NPC Commissioners are not attending these sessions.

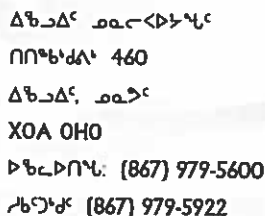
Completeness or Adequacy of Plan & Non-Conformance

I spoke with one of your staff after the session to ask about the draft land use plan. I was shocked by the defensive aggressiveness of his responses to my questions. I apologized for missing the morning, as I had other obligations. I appreciate that I am coming late into the NPC process and explained that is the nature and state of community politics and high turnover of staff. I also appreciate that NPC has been working on this draft Land Use Plan for 10+ years and it too struggled with capacity issues, lack of resources, political and staff changes, etc.

Nonetheless, I was surprised in this exchange that it appears that a lot of important and necessary land use information may be missing from the latest draft. Iqaluit has two watersheds, one we are currently using and another for future use, when we outgrow our water supply.



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Given how difficult it may be to change the Land Use Plan, once approved, the City is concerned, so am I, that projects that we may not be aware of or done in a different location that identified in the 5 years will be deemed non-conforming. I understand that getting an amendment is a whole other process, one that is time consuming, potentially costly and could cause significant delays in a project review, approval and implementation.

As a result, the City has to be careful and confident that it has identified each and every possible project and/or project location e.g. hydro-electric project (dam, river), tidal energy, landfill, incinerator, recycling plant, fish processing plant, road to and from Peregrine Diamond mine, cell phone towers, fibre optic cable, terrestrial microwave repeaters, VHF radio towers, etc.

It is hard to be definitive with projects or project locations. It's also not possible to always know with 100% certainty about projects, simply because some projects materialize from business sector that may or may not participate in our community or territorial land use planning development processes or new funding opportunities arise, e.g. new government program or initiative.

As a result, the City is concerned about how to best address the uncertainty and unknown.

Conflicts

I asked the question at the meeting what or how the NPC would deal with real or potential conflicts between communities or other key stakeholders e.g. resource sector. The answer provided was that determining how to balance or resolve conflict is up to the Commissioners has not set well with me and I'm sure doesn't or won't sit well with communities or other stakeholders. Some mechanism to permit the groups to come together to discuss and see if it is possible to resolve or compromise amongst ourselves should be encouraged and supported by NPC.

One alternate suggestion was to carve out these issues for future resolution is a good idea but the lack of clarity of whether the former will be done and/or under what criteria the latter is done has not been fully explored or developed into a policy or protocol. I hope that NPC would choose the latter and do some work before such a conflict exists for Commissioner determination. Along with an administrative appeal process would be useful.

Conclusion

The City has concerns about the schedule, hardcopies, translation, community capacity, Commissioner engagement, completeness and adequacy of the plan and conflicts.

We support NPC in the important work that is being done and while we appreciate





the plan will never be perfect and needs to be completed, we're concerned about whether the plan will be sufficiently complete and have the necessary approval and support of the communities and key stakeholders.

Yours truly,

Mayor Madeleine Redfern
City of Iqaluit

cc. City of Iqaluit Council
Honourable Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

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