



Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Sous-ministre adjoint

Assistant Deputy Minister

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H4

MAY 19 2017

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Mr. Andrew Nakashuk
Chair
Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 1797
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anakashuk@nunavut.ca

Dear Mr. Nakashuk:

The completion of the regional hearing in Iqaluit on the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan was a significant milestone in the development of the plan. As the Nunavut Planning Commission takes stock of the Iqaluit hearing and plans for the regional hearings in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some suggestions from federal officials that attended the Iqaluit hearing. The department has been copied on recent letters to you from my colleagues in the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, so I am mindful that a number of these matters have resonated with others that attended the hearing.

As you know, the Government of Canada has identified a number of issues that continue to need discussion and resolution to produce an approvable plan. Recognizing that hearing procedures are at the Commission's discretion, I offer the following suggestions to assist planning for the upcoming hearings. It is hoped that with some adjustments, the Commission can receive the input it needs to further refine the draft plan.

Hearing Agenda

I suggest providing time on the first day for the introduction of all participants. This would allow participants to interact to a greater extent, understand each other's perspectives, and create a more welcoming environment for dialogue. For example, a number of participants indicated to Government of Canada representatives that they would be interested in talking one on one to understand particular issues better. Introductions would help community representatives to know who to approach.

Approach to Questions and Discussion

At times questions asked by the Commission were presented as binary choices (e.g., either establish protected areas or develop the economy). These are complex issues that do not lend themselves to "either/or" solutions. The Commission has available to it varied combinations of prohibited uses, permitted uses, and terms and conditions on permitted uses to achieve its planning objectives. It would be more productive if the discussions amongst the Commission and participants were set in a collaborative context that encourages participants to identify their interests, discuss trade-offs that might need to occur, and suggest acceptable solutions to balance those interests.

More generally, I suggest the Commission allow an opportunity in the planning process for these kinds of follow-up discussions amongst the Commission and participants when it is clear an important issue has been raised, yet work remains to find an appropriate land use planning solution.

It would be helpful if the Commission could also indicate whether questions submitted to the Commission by participants before, during or after the Iqaluit hearing session still require response. We respectfully request that questions asked of the Government of Canada that still need a response be shared with all participants at the Commission's earliest opportunity and prior to the next hearing session, and that the Commission indicates the source of the question – whether it is from Commissioners, staff, legal counsel or other participants.

Oral and Written Communication

It should be made clear to participants that the Commission will give weighty consideration to the tradition of Inuit oral communication, as is required in the Nunavut Agreement, and that there is no requirement to follow-up with a written submission. Further, it should be clear that hearing participants may choose to provide oral remarks or a written submission in Inuktitut, English or French.

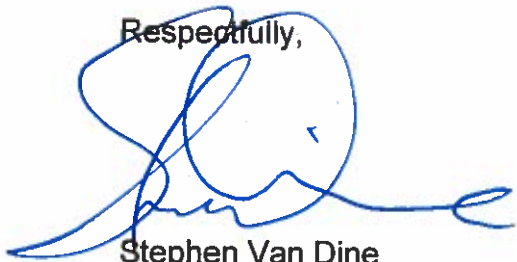
Community Input

At times, community members indicated areas on maps that are of particular community or ecological interest or value. It was not obvious to officials, especially early on in the hearing, that this valuable information was captured in the hearing record. The Commission should ensure this information was captured and documented and that it can be accessed by all participants on the consultation record.

It was also noted that Inuit youth were not particularly well represented in Iqaluit and I encourage the Commission to find ways to ensure the participation of youth in the coming hearing sessions, as the plan is for their future.

I wish you all the best for continued progress on the development of the draft plan and for successful hearings in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. If you wish to discuss these suggestions further, please contact David Rochette, Regional Director General, at 867-975-4501 or David.Rochette@aadnc-aandc.gc.ca.

Respectfully,



Stephen Van Dine
Assistant Deputy Minister
Northern Affairs Organization

Encl.

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