



June 15, 2017

Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, NU X0B 0C0

RE: DNLUP Public Hearings and Process Forward

Dear Mrs. Ehaloak:

Thank you for your Chairperson's May 30th 2017 letter to Premier Taptuna outlining the Nunavut Planning Commission's (the "Commission") vision for its planning process, following its decision to postpone regional hearings in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. The Government of Nunavut (the "GN") appreciates the Commission's recommended resolution to address outstanding concerns regarding the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (the "DNLUP"), and its regional public hearings. The successful completion of the NLUP is a GN priority, and we have been active participants in this planning process since its onset.

As you are aware, the GN has several serious concerns regarding the 2016 DNLUP and this planning process. As such, the GN commits to support the development of, and attend, the proposed meeting described in your May 30th letter. However, some of the Commission's expectations for this meeting will likely require further discussion and agreement among all parties as well the selection an appropriate facilitator by the parties. I agree that ongoing dialogue through structured and purpose-driven discussions is the best means of achieving progress towards an approvable NLUP. Our GN representatives will, within reason, be prepared at this meeting to provide commitments pertaining to hearing timing and procedures, as well as necessary subsequent steps to achieve joint approval of the NLUP. Additional interim feedback regarding the meeting is also provided below:

- It is essential that subsequent regional hearings on the NLUP be facilitated in a manner which respects Inuit oral traditional and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Without exception, allow Inuit participants to make comments and ask questions orally in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun. Under no circumstances should Inuit participants be

requested to provide questions or comments in English when speaking in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.

- An awareness of how questions are asked is paramount in ensuring questions are asked in an accurate, fair, and transparent manner. For example, phrasing a question in which a recipient must choose between 'protection' and 'development' makes it difficult for a recipient to give an accurate response. Rather, discussion should focus on specific land use restrictions proposed by the Commission in its DNLUP, as well as alternatives proposed by other parties. A different approach or facilitation of questions would be helpful in generating accurate questions and points of discussion.
- With respect to the nature of the remaining public hearings, please refer to the May 10th 2017 recommendations provided to the Commission by the GN's Department of Environment;
- On the issue of planning process 'timing', it is important that a deliverable from the meeting be a clear, and realistic timeline to prevent further postponements or last-minute process changes;
- In order to ensure discussions are as productive as possible, time ought to be allotted to achieve consensus on the 2016 DNLUP's major outstanding issues; and,
- Substantial revisions to the 2016 DNLUP are necessary, as evidenced by parties' January 2017 written submissions to the Commission. Presentations at the Qikiqtani hearing also suggest that a revised DNLUP is necessary, and accordingly may require further consultation. Agreement on consultation requirements and a schedule for final revisions based on these – termed the "post-hearing process" in your letter - should be established at this proposed meeting.

Recognizing that the primary purpose of this meeting is to clarify process concerns, time permitting, these conversations would benefit from the Commission providing an update on revisions being considered for the DNLUP. A helpful starting point to frame such an update from the Commission would be a revisiting of the issue matrix sent to the Commission by signatories on December 6th 2016, as well as January 2017 written submissions from parties. After the closure of those meeting, these substantive issues could continue to be resolved through non-prejudicial exchanges of drafts or draft excerpts of the DNLUP.

We owe it to Nunavummiut to work as collaboratively and transparently as possible to develop an approval NLUP in a timely and efficient manner.

GN officials will be available to support the planning and discussions towards resolving any of the outstanding issues as we work towards the finalization of the NLUP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DA', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

David Akeeagok
Deputy Minister

cc: Peter Taptuna, Premier, Government of Nunavut
James T Arreak, CEO, NTI
Stephen Van Dine, ADM Northern Affairs Organization, INAC
Navarana Beveridge, Executive Director, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Paul Emingak, Executive Director, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Gabriel Karlik, Executive Director, Kivalliq Inuit Association