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Nunavunmi Parnaiyit  
Nunavut Planning Commission  
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

September 9, 2016

Elizabeth Kingston  
General Manager, Nunavut  
Box 1019, Iqaluit, NU.  
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E-mail: [generalmanagernu@miningnorth.com](mailto:generalmanagernu@miningnorth.com)

Dear Ms. Kingston,

**Re: Concerns of NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines, August 15, 2016**

Thank you for your letter of August 15, 2016 expressing concerns as to the NPC's process leading up to the final public hearing on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP) released on June 23, 2016. Since your letter was received the NPC has addressed many of the procedural concerns you raised, and your written submissions on the content of the DNLUP will be considered by the Commissioners along with the other comments, evidence, and submissions being provided to the NPC on the DNLUP. I trust you will find the measures taken ensure the public hearing process is fair, just, and expedient for all involved.

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Since the original notice of the PHC scheduled for August 2016 was issued, the NPC has taken subsequent steps to ensure participants have clear and reasonable notice of the matters that will be discussed at the PHC so that they are able to attend and participate fully. A notice advising participants of the postponement of the PHC to September 27 to 29, 2016 was circulated August 19, 2016, and a notice and detailed agenda was released on August 25, 2016 explaining, among other matters, the proposed format of the public hearings. The new PHC notice and agenda also include a draft list of issues relating to the DNLUP that the NPC is in the process of formulating in accordance with rule 25.1 of the RPHPR. As contemplated by Rule 22.1 of the RPHPR, the NPC is providing participants the opportunity to provide input on the issues, the process, and the timelines leading up to the final public hearing to be held in March 2017, including the timelines for filing written submissions and other evidence with the NPC.

As your letter notes, expert reports are “essential components of the public hearing and timing of expert reports is an essential item for any PHC agenda.” Consequently, the NPC decided it was necessary to first hold the PHC to obtain participant feedback on various matters such as the list of issues, addressing information gaps, the format of the public hearing, and the timing of expert reports, prior to the filing of participants’ final submissions. Sections 50 and 51 of the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act* imply that the period for receiving comments on the DNLUP must be completed prior to proceeding to a public hearing, but does not preclude the NPC from engaging the participants prior to the end of the comment period for the purpose of creating a fair and efficient public hearing process.

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The NPC's staff had the enormous task of reviewing the consultation record and submissions received by the NPC when revising the DNLUP, and integrating sometimes conflicting interests into a single document to be reviewed at the final public hearing. I note and reiterate, it is the Commissioners themselves who will be hearing from participants and the public and directing any necessary revisions to the DNLUP that may follow the March 2017 public hearing. The Commission welcomes any comments on the DNLUP that participants and the public may wish to provide, and will consider them with an open mind when reviewing and finalizing the DNLUP following the hearing.

*Handwritten signature*

**cc** The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
**MP Hunter Tootoo**, MP for Nunavut  
 The Honourable Peter Taptuna, Premier of Nunavut Legislative Assembly  
 The Honourable Monica Ell-Kanayuk, Minister of Economic Development and  
 Transportation and Minister of Mines  
 Ms. Cathie Towtongie, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated  
 Sharon Ehaloak, Executive Director of the Nunavut Planning Commission  
 Percy Kabloona, Vice Chairperson of the Nunavut Planning Commission  
 Peter Alareak, Commissioner of the Nunavut Planning Commission  
 Ovide Alakanauruk, Commissioner of the Nunavut Planning Commission  
 Mr. Gary Vivian, President of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines

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