



Written Submission to the Nunavut Planning Commission on the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

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1. Kangiqliniq HTO and Role of the HTO

The Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) is a Designated Inuit Organization created for the community of Rankin Inlet under article 5 of the Nunavut Agreement. The HTO has a broad mandate to manage Inuit harvesting practices in the Rankin Inlet area while promoting conservation and ensuring harvesting rights are not infringed on.

The community of Rankin Inlet was established around the Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine which was operational from 1957 to 1962. Families from around the Kivalliq came to work at the mine. Collectively, current members of the KHTO have come from communities throughout the Kivalliq region as many have come to work for the prospective Meliadine Mine which is located approximately 30 km west north west of the community. Hunters in Rankin Inlet make up the membership of the HTO.

2. General Recommendations

2.1 Caribou

The Kangiqliniq HTO supports the Protected Area designated for caribou core calving grounds (#38 Caribou Calving Areas) along with Key access corridors. The HTO believes that protection of caribou calving grounds is vitally important for the long-term sustainability of the caribou herds, and maintaining large herds will ensure that Inuit hunters can continue to harvest caribou for subsistence as we have done as far back as we remember. It should be noted that we have observed dramatic changes in the distribution of the Qamanirjuaq herd recently and believe a larger core calving area is needed, these changes in distribution match up with what elders have told us. Calving grounds move but stay in a general area as a natural form of crop rotation. The HTO is concerned that by not protecting these areas, that we will lose our caribou. Also note, that the Nunavut Impact Review Board has made it clear on multiple screening decision reports that it is not within their mandate to protect caribou habitat. Our understanding of the EIA process also shows that this is not taken into consideration when development hits that stage. Mobile protection does not protect habitat, and also Mobile protection measures as written by the Kivalliq Inuit Association actually creates the sensory disturbance that we would like to protect caribou from. Also the HTO feels that the Government of Nunavut does not have the capacity to maintain and more importantly, enforce the implementation of mobile protection measures.

Our members have expressed that the very large Protected Areas for post-calving grounds (#39 Caribou Post Calving Area) do not necessarily need full protection. They might be better designated as Special Management Areas with mobile protection measures and seasonal restrictions with dates between May 15 and July 3rd. The HTO is concerned that there are different dates that are being used by different regulatory bodies causing confusion as to where post calving grounds ends. The HTO recommends that NPC work with the regulatory bodies to determine definitive dates for post calving grounds to minimize the confusion not only for industry but also for the communities.

Rankin Inlet is in a unique situation with the Meliadine mine being so close to town. While the HTO remains generally supportive of development, our rights defined by 5.7.16-17 of the Nunavut

agreement may potentially be infringed upon if and when development continues to progress. The HTO would like more time to map out these areas. These areas should be designated as VECS and or VSECs under schedule b of the Land use plan.

For freshwater crossings (#159 Caribou Freshwater Crossings), the Kangiqliniq HTO wants Protected Area designation around them, but the buffer could be reduced in size (i.e. 5 – 10 km buffers.) Deciding how big a buffer should be should be handled on a case-by-case basis. Each crossing should be assessed by the nearest community and the appropriate Regional Inuit Association to determine the proper size of the buffer.

2.2 Polar Bears

Kangiqliniq HTO supports protecting polar bear denning areas. However, further studies and consultations should occur to determine areas most appropriate for protection along the Western Hudson Bay coast. For now, along the Western Hudson Bay coasts the Value Ecosystem Component (#43 Polar Bear Denning) is an appropriate designation for polar bear dens. However, in future versions of the Nunavut Land Use Plan, some of these areas should become Protected Areas.

2.3 Walrus

Kangiqliniq HTO would like to see walrus haul-outs and birthing areas near Rankin Inlet included as Protected Areas. NTI and KIA have maps where traditional and current hauls outs are identified. These should be Protected Areas with a 2 km buffer for these specific haul outs (larger haul outs like those near Coral Harbor and Naujaat should be commented on by the appropriate community). Protection of these area's may help the WHB walrus population recover.

2.4 Rankin Inlet Water Source

The current draft of the Nunavut Land Use Plan suggests the Rankin Inlet watershed is within the municipal boundaries of the community. Many people are concerned that this is no longer the case as Nipisar Lake is not the sole source of water in Rankin Inlet any longer. Water is already being pumped from Little Char River and may soon be pumped from First Landing Lake. Also, many people get water from the Meliadine River. During the recent hearing for Agnico Eagle's saline effluent discharge, we heard that elders have noticed a difference in the taste of the water and changes in the taste of the fish coming from this river. We want to ensure that the people of Rankin Inlet have clean and pristine drinking water long into the future, especially with the development of major mines in the region. Clean water sources must be properly assessed and planned for in the Nunavut Land Use Plan, and industrial development should not threaten our water.

2.5 Roads

Kangiqliniq HTO is not opposed to a Manitoba to Nunavut road corridor being part of the Nunavut Land Use Plan. The HTO feels that should a road occur, it should not be in the core calving area, nor in a key access corridor and should be parallel to migration general caribou migration routes. This is obviously a very long-term project, the HTO looks forward to working with developers and the Kivalliq Inuit association to ensure that the best road possible is built.

2.6 Mining and Exploration

The Kangiqliniq HTO is concerned about the impacts of exploration and mining on our ability to hunt and on the well-being of the wildlife that we hunt. While we understand the need for economic growth and

job creation, we feel that the impacts of industry have already changed the way we hunt. This includes changes in migratory p; disturbances of wildlife by helicopters, drilling, blasting and other loud and invasive activities; and the potential for overharvesting with easy access to wildlife via new roads. The HTO has had to oppose a project due to infringement rights on high value hunting grounds.

2.7 Uranium Policy

The Kangiqliniq Hunters and Trappers would like clarification on the process that eliminated terms 3.5 and 3.6 from the Keewatin Regional Land Use plan. These terms and the need for community consultation are a necessity in our opinion. The HTO recommends that terms 3.5 and 3.6 be re-instated in the Nunavut Land Use plan in the form of a binding plebiscite prior to an EIA of any uranium project. The HTO believes the abolishment of these terms may have threatened the harvesting rights of younger Inuit who have not had an opportunity to have their say on Uranium development in Nunavut.

2.8 Process

The HTO is disappointed that progress on the land use plan has not been made since the Baffin regional hearing in Iqaluit but, in-light of our recent observations the HTO is thankful that more time is given to identify a larger core calving ground. The HTO believes that a regional hearing is needed and that issues within the draft can be fixed through the hearing process.