

Press Release

Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Next Steps

Planning process to move forward with or without funding

Iqaluit, December 6, 2018. The Nunavut Planning Commission (the Commission) held a regional public hearing on the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP) in the Qikiqtani region in March 2017. Since that time, the Commission has requested funding from the Government of Canada to hold public hearings in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions on the 2016 DNLUP, but has not received the necessary funding. On July 16, 2018 the Commission reopened the record to allow participants to submit additional written representations and evidence relating to the 2016 DNLUP and an extension was later granted until November 26, 2018. Participants are now able to respond to the additional written submissions until January 25, 2019.

The Commission met on December 6, 2018 and passed a unanimous motion to revise the 2016 DNLUP based on the existing record and any responses to the recent additional written submissions. The Commission is preparing a supplementary funding request to support the redrafting of the 2016 DNLUP and to hold four regional public hearings on the revised DNLUP as well as in-person community engagement to prepare communities for the public hearings. These steps seek to respond to the concerns raised by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. related to the tradition of Inuit oral communication and decision making.

In the event that the Commission does not receive adequate supplementary funding for further community engagement and public hearings, the Commission will review the evidence gathered to date and move forward with revising the 2016 DNLUP within its resources. This may include the Commission evaluating the sufficiency of evidence gathered to date and proceeding to redraft the 2016 DNLUP in those areas where it has received adequate regional public input.

Commission Chair Andrew Nakashuk says “we have listened to the recommendations of NTI, the Government of Nunavut, and the Government of Canada about how they would like to see the planning process move forward, but it needs to be recognized that in-person community engagement and public hearings as set out under the Nunavut Agreement will require supplementary funding.”

The Commission has also heard from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities that although it is essential community voices be heard, in the absence of necessary funding, the Commission still has a responsibility to recommend a preferred Plan for how land and waters are used in Nunavut.

The costs of the Commission are the responsibility of the Government of Canada pursuant to section 11.4.3 of the Nunavut Agreement.

For more information, please contact: Nunavut Planning Commission

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