



Andrew Nakashuk
A/Chair, Nunavut Planning Commission

January 29, 2016

RE: Aqigiq HTO Additional Comments

The Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) board of directors would like to provide additional comments for the Nunavut Land Use Plan. Specifically, we would like to propose the Josephine River and Josephine Lake areas be designated as a protected area.

Josephine River and Lake are essential areas for the community of Chesterfield Inlet. Char run from the lake into the ocean in June, and return to the lake in late August. The lake also contains lake trout, whitefish, and ling.

During the runs, Chesterfield Inlet residents catch char with Kakivak, rods, and nets. This is an important source of food for our community. Kakivak fishing is an integral part of our traditional culture. We want to pass this tradition down to future generations. Learning to fish with a kakivak is a source of pride for our youth. In a community still dealing with the impacts of residential schooling and assimilation, this cultural pride is essential for our future wellbeing. Josephine Lake is also used for fishing year-round. In the winter and summer, we jig and use nets to catch char, trout, whitefish, and ling.

The qamanirjuaq caribou herd migrates through the area in July and August. The area is an important caribou hunting area during this period. There is a cabin located on Josephine lake.

For these reasons, the Aqigiq HTO recommends that a 10km buffer be drawn around Josephine river and lake. All mining and mineral exploration (and associated activities and infrastructure) should not be permitted in this area. Winter and all-season roads not directly related to mining and mineral exploration should be permitted in the area.

Thank you very much for considering our proposal.

Barney Aggark
Chair, Aqigiq Hunters and Trappers Organization