



Tłıchǫ Government

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February 22, 2016

Andrew Nakashuk, Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 2101
Cambridge Bay, Nunavut X0B 0C0
Email: jsavoy@nunavut.ca

Via email: jtwerdin@nunavut.ca

Re: Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Tłıchǫ Government – Application for Standing

Dear Mr. Nakashuk,

Tłıchǫ Government is applying for Participant status for the Public Hearings concerning the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (“DNLUP”). Our application is limited to a specific issue and we ask for standing for that issue – the treatment in the DNLUP of Barren-ground caribou calving and post-grounds of these herds in Nunavut.

We think that our interests, while limited to one part of Nunavut and to the protection of barren-ground caribou herds, are directly and substantially affected by the DNLUP and our participation will further the Public Hearing and contribute to its openness.

The Barren-ground Caribou and in particular the Bluenose East and Bathurst herds play a crucial role in the very culture, language and way life of the Tłıchǫ people.

The Bluenose East and Bathurst herds are in a critical period of herd decline. Public Hearings are underway in the Northwest Territories to address the issues associated with the herd decline. This is a period of deep concern to all Tłıchǫ.

We believe that Tłıchǫ Government has an important perspective to offer and as well we are affected by the DNLUP inasmuch as Barren-ground caribou calving and post-grounds of these herds are in Nunavut:

1. Tłıchǫ Government passed a Land Use Plan for Tłıchǫ lands called the Tłıchǫ Wenek’e. It offers a unique approach to land use planning that is based on our relationship with the caribou and in fact some of our zones in the Tłıchǫ Wenek’e are defined by caribou trails. We would be very appreciative to offer our views on our planning approach;
2. Our view is that where areas in a proposed land use plan include barren-ground caribou calving and post-calving grounds, those areas need the highest level of protection, including the possibility of creating Protected Areas. Bring precautionary, calving grounds should not be subject to exploration or development, as the calving grounds have

significant importance for caribou and all harvesters, especially aboriginal peoples, whose harvesting depends on the state of those calving grounds. The protection of calving and post-calving grounds is a major concern for conservation of a number of barren-ground caribou herds, and in particular the Bluenose-East and Bathurst herds. We would like to offer our perspective in support of these ideas.

The Tłıchǫ Government respectfully requests to be granted participant status. We would like to submit our written comments on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan, before March 4th, 2016. We would submit our presentation and give our verbal comments during the final Public Hearings in November. We would expect to bring one Tłıchǫ Government staff and one Elder to the Public Hearings.

If you have any questions please contact Sjoerd van der Wielen, Lands manager, Tłıchǫ Government, at sjoerdvanderwielen@tlichho.com (our preferred communication method).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laura Duncan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Laura Duncan
Tłıchǫ Executive Officer