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August 17, 2007

To: Nunavut Hamlets, CLARCs and HTOs

RE: Issues, Vision and Goals for Land Use Planning

Dear Sirs or Madams,

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) is beginning a new land use planning process for Nunavut. We are asking community organizations to assist us in identifying land use issues, a vision and goals for Nunavut, and for the planning regions, to guide our work over the coming years.

Background

The Nunavut Planning Commission was established under Article 10 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to develop land use plans for Nunavut. The NPC has approved land use plans in place in the Kivalliq and North Baffin regions and has a draft plan completed in the West Kitikmeot region. NPC is now beginning work on a single land use plan for all of Nunavut which will include sections for each of the six planning regions.

Land use planning means making decisions about how to use the land and resources to achieve future goals. The NPC works with communities, government, industry and other interested organizations to identify common goals for the land and resources, identify issues (challenges or concerns), and find solutions to those issues. The result of this process is a land use plan.

A land use plan identifies priorities for conservation, development, management and use of land, water and resources in the Nunavut Settlement Area, outside community boundaries. Plans identify where different types of development will be permitted or restricted, and under what conditions. They may identify priority areas for protection for ecological or cultural reasons, and they may identify important areas for economic development based on resource potential.

The purpose of land use planning is to protect and promote the existing and future well being of the residents and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area, taking into account the interests of all Canadians. We are required to devote special attention to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands.

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In order for the plan to promote community well-being, community representatives need to actively participate in plan development. The first steps in plan development involve identifying issues, vision and goals. You can assist us by identifying a vision and goals for your area of interest, and telling us what types of land use are important to you, and what you see as important land use issues.

NPC staff will be calling your organizations throughout the summer and fall to talk with your representatives about your vision and goals for your area of interest and Nunavut, and to identify land use issues you think the Plan should address. Please discuss these topics within your organizations and share your vision, goals and issues with us.

If you have any questions, please contact me at hwiebe@npc.nunavut.ca or (867) 983-4631. Thank you for your help.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heidi Wiebe', written in a cursive style.

Heidi Wiebe
Policy Specialist