



## **Nunavut Implementation Panel Presentation January 31, 2008 Speaking Notes**

**Ron Roach, Chair  
Nunavut Planning Commission**

### **Opening Remarks**

It is a pleasure to meet with the Nunavut Implementation Panel today.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) is an Institution of Public Government (IPG) with legally binding decision making authority that comes from the signing of the NLCA.

Issues:

Commissioner Honoraria;

Annual re-payment of 77K for 12 years

Commission Appointments

We've been talking for years about the need to raise the honoraria level of the NPC Commission members. As everyone on the Panel is aware NPC is challenged to deliver their mandated requirements with the current funding levels. I would like to take some time this afternoon to highlight some of them. As I understand it most everyone agrees that the Commission member's honoraria should be raised. The honoraria should be compensated at the very least with the same level of the other IPGs and ideally raised to reflect other Commissions with similar responsibilities and authority. The Minister sets the honoraria level for the NPC and could easily resolve this long standing disparity. This change would assist with the retention of qualified Commission members. We are very fortunate that the current Commissioners are committed to Nunavut and the mandate of the Planning Commission.

In 1999 the Commission was over paid through their contribution agreement. For 8 years the Commission has been repaying this overpayment at a rate of \$77,000 annually. This legacy issue is not paid in full until the year 2012. We believe the debt should be forgiven. This would be a win /win for both parties. This annual claw back has basically eliminated the annual cost of living increment of our

annual funding. The Commission believes the Minister should also be able to resolve this longstanding matter and forgive the approximately 300K that remains outstanding.

After years of long delays with appointments coming from the Minister's Office to the Commission we are pleased to report that the appointment process over the past 2 years has been good. We now are experiencing delays with getting the names from Inuit organizations to the Ministers office. The Commission acknowledges all those people that work behind the scenes to pull the appointment paperwork together, mainly Michael Nadler and his Nunavut Regional Office family.

The Commission is moving forward with the development of the Nunavut Land Use Plan as required under 11.5.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). In addition over the course of this last year, we have achieved many significant milestones that were long outstanding, which our Executive Director, Sharon Ehaloak will elaborate on. Sharon will also talk about our challenges and future plans.

**Sharon Ehaloak, Executive Director  
Nunavut Planning Commission**

**Accomplishments 07/08**

**11.4.1(a)**

November 10, 2007 the Commission approved the NLCA 11.4.1 (a) obligation to develop broad planning policies, objectives and goals for the Nunavut Settlement Area in conjunction with Government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. This document has the support of NTI and Government. This milestone document represents the interests, partnerships and support for the Nunavut Land Use Plan and planning in Nunavut.

**Governance**

As a public agency the Commissioners are committed to a Results-Based-Governance model that identifies roles, responsibilities and accountabilities and are committed to governing with excellence. The Commissioners set the direction, and the constraints in which the organization operates. They govern themselves through policy which sets out Commissioner Responsibilities, code of conduct and defining the Commissioner / Executive Director relationship. Yearly work plans are developed and Commissioners monitor organizational achievements and standards.

Our Mission Statement is:

**“Leading the Way through Land Use Planning for Nunavummiut.”**

### **Finance**

2007 the NPC received its first clean Audit in 5 years. Reporting requirements with INAC need to be standardized for consistency. A reporting template would be useful so as the INAC family staff change the reporting requirement interpretation remains the same. Changes to the contribution agreement should be done in consultation with the IPG's and this panel.

### **Strategic Plan**

NPC completed its first ever Strategic Plan in our last fiscal year. This living document will guide the operations of the NPC. We are currently completing our annual update of the plan. The Commission will provide this panel with a copy of the up to date strategic plan on or before March 31/08.

The Commission's 2006 ten year Strategic Plan was a milestone in our accomplishments. The strategic planning document describes the future direction, activities, and forecasts the budgetary requirements of the NPC for fiscal years 2006 through 2016 inclusive.

This plan outlines an ambitious strategy for the Commission over the next decade, including our need to:

- Continue the process of Governance Leadership;
- Implement measures to ensure the financial integrity of the organization;
- Identify our ten-year funding requirements, and
- Complete the Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP) in a timely manner.

### **Legislation**

We are actively participating in all working group meetings to support the development of the NLCA Article 10 *Nunavut Land Use Planning and Impact Assessment Act*. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in this forum. It should be noted that our expertise brings to the table a clear understanding of how land use planning works and it is critical for us to remain at the table. The legislative document as we all know need to be realistic and reflect professional standards.

### **Commission Activities**

**Informed Planning Partners:** Commissioners attend and inform Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) & Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs) at AGM Forums, Symposiums etc. of NPC Mandate, accomplishments' and direction with the development of the NLUP

framework. The Commission also participates in meetings with various planning partners such as communities, government and industry.

### **Organizational structure**

As directed by the Commissioners, our resources have been re-profiled with the focus on the development and advancement of the NLUP. We have closed our Ottawa Office; illumination of all unrelated Information Technology (IT) programs and activities. The organizational structure now supports the development and implementation of the NLUP.

### **Implementation of Term 3.5 of the Keewatin Land Use Plan**

NPC hosted the IPG Uranium Workshop. This forum facilitated the exchange of information to inform the residents on the development and effects of Uranium mining and development. The forum was well received by all participants. The Uranium workshop documents are completed and will be released once the translated versions are done.

### **Nunavut General Monitoring Plan**

We have been working in cooperation with Government and NTI regarding implementation of NLCA Article 12.7.6 Nunavut General Monitoring Plan. There have been several meetings and we look forward to the upcoming workshop in March. Government is the lead on this file.

### **Nunavut Land Use Plan**

The Commission has broad support from the Government of Nunavut (GN), Government of Canada, NTI and the RIAs to advance a single land use plan for Nunavut. In accordance with NLCA 11.5.1 this plan will contain regional and sub-regional components (chapters) as approved.

### **Relationships**

We have spent a great deal of time working with our planning partners over the past year. GN has identified the opportunities to have GN employees support the work of the Nunavut Land Use Plan as technical and expert advisors working with NPC work teams to fast track the plan development. We would like to begin exploring these opportunities with government and NTI.

As well we look forward to revisiting our funding levels with the NIP in the near future.

We are really excited about the upcoming year!

### **Challenges**

I believe all of our organizations share the same challenges.

- Inadequate funding levels

- Staff turnover and loss of corporate knowledge and experience
- Barriers to clear communication
- Housing

We see a benefit to IPG forums where we get together in a group. The distances we deal with are great and we need to take every opportunity to get the IPGs and the parties to the claim together.

### **Outstanding legislation**

We just received the draft bill and look forward to advancing this important initiative. In the view of the NPC there are still a number of enhancements that would be useful to streamline the regulatory process. We look forward to discussing these opportunities at upcoming meetings.

### **Multi-directional external pressures**

With so many different pressures it would be beneficial for us to have a clear reporting requirement template to be used for reporting on our annual Contribution Agreement. This reporting should be consistent between all IPGs.

In order to manage resources and external pressures arising from the implementation of land use plans. The Commissioners have directed the development of rules and procedures to deal with issues related to conformity determinations and plan amendments under the approved plans for the Kivalliq and North Baffin. With our limited resources we need to stay focused on the development of the NLUP. Having to undertake plan amendment requests, on a one off bases would take resources both financial and human capacity to undertake public consultations. The Commission is taking the broad view to ensure plan development and implementation activities are as efficient as possible.

### **Housing Markets**

We are experiencing challenges recruiting and retaining qualified staff. Part of our problem is the availability of housing. The north has a tight real estate market. It is difficult for the NPC to access housing for staff when, in our experience, most of the reasonable vacant units are held under lease to the Government of Nunavut. We would like to see a formal process in place where the NPC could access /lease vacant units held by the GN.

### **Past, Present and Future**

Over the past 2 years there has been a complete re-profiling of the NPC. Under our Governance model the Commission has a single goal established as policy. This is to complete the Nunavut Land Use Plan. As a result resources were redirected to the development, approval and implementation of the Nunavut Land Use Plan in April 2007. Many

of these changes are supported in the Government of Nunavut discussion paper entitled: Land Use Planning Options for Nunavut, dated September 21, 2007. The paper contains a number of recommendations that support land use planning. These include key recommendations such as: the concept of assigning expert staff to work on land use planning teams to support the NPC and the temporary increase in funding to support completion of the NLUP in a phased approach.

The re-profiling was undertaken in response to the Aarluk Management Report and the Mackay Audit. It was further supported by the commitment of NIP to revisit the NPC funding levels once certain tasks were completed. As I indicated in my September 21, 2007 email to NTI, other panel members and IPGs the NPC would like the opportunity to formalize current figures and meet the NIP to finalize realistic funding levels.

The NPC is planning a next steps meeting with the NPC Executive Director, GN Deputy Minister, INAC Regional Director General and NTI Chief Executive Office to formalize the phased approach and to discuss opportunities for land use planning work teams.

I would like to have Adrian present to you an overview of the NLUP process we are under taking over the next few years.

**Adrian Boyd**  
**Director, Policy**

### **Nunavut Land Use Plan**

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires the Commission to develop a Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP). The NLUP will manage land use at 3 levels: areas around your community, the regions, and all of Nunavut. We build the plan by talking to communities to learn what their goals and concerns are for the land lying outside their municipal boundaries. We talk to the municipalities, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Regional Inuit Associations, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., government, industry and other planning partners to identify the issues and goals common to all of Nunavut and those which are trans-regional or region specific.

- A Nunavut land use issue could be the need to ensure that Inuit benefit from development.
- A trans-regional issue could be managing ship traffic in the Northwest Passage.
- A regional issue could be the need to protect the floe edge.

- A community issue might be the need to protect their water supply that comes from outside the municipal boundaries.

Land use plans take a long time to develop. We have to talk to a lot of people and do a lot of research to understand the different land uses, the issues and find a way to solve these issues. Nunavut cannot wait 8 more years for a land use plan. If there is no land use plan, there is no direction for industry and government about how communities want to see the land managed.

To get land use plans in place for all of Nunavut quickly the NPC will be building the plan in stages. We already have approved plans for the North Baffin, Kivalliq, a draft plan in the West Kitikmeot and have completed planning work in the South Baffin. All of this work will be brought into the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

We want to understand the goals and set broad direction for all of Nunavut based on this information to begin to promote community interests as soon as possible. Unfortunately with current resources we are only able to focus on updating the Kivalliq community priorities and values for this upcoming year. With an increase in resources we could complete additional community consultations in the Kitikmeot and Baffin regions and as a result complete the entire plan in less time.

Once the broad Nunavut Land Use Plan is approved we will continue to work at the 3 levels – Nunavut wide, Regional and Community to complete more detailed planning on the difficult issues and complete outstanding community consultations. In this way we get a land use plan place for all of Nunavut quickly with more detail added to the plan as more land use planning is completed.

In summary the broad NLUP will include regional and community land use planning issues. What we are doing differently is that we are not delaying completing the NLUP for years while planning partners debate complex land use planning issues. We are taking the planning work we have completed, updating the issues and goals and where there is agreement preparing to submit that plan for approval. As the complicated issues are resolved we will revise, update and add to the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

With the addition of dedicated government expert and technical staff and the resources to cover travel over a short term of approximately a 2 - 3 year period it would be possible to accelerate the completion of the NLUP.