



## Speaking Notes

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### **Kivalliq Inuit Association Annual General Meeting Rankin Inlet, Nunavut October 2008**

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#### **Presentation Overview**

Our presentation today will include:

- a review of the role of Nunavut Planning Commission.
- an explanation of Land Use Planning under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.
- a presentation on the broad land use planning goals developed for Nunavut.
- a description of how we intend to complete land use planning for Nunavut.

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#### **Role of the Nunavut Planning Commission**

The Nunavut Planning Commission is an Institution of Public Government established as an independent public agency with its roles and responsibilities set out under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), Article 11, Land Use Planning.

The Commission is a co-management organization with distinct authority and decision making responsibilities protected under the NLCA. The NPC consults with government, Inuit organizations and many different organizations but it is the Commission's responsibilities to make the final decisions on how land use plans will be developed and how the plans will manage the land in Nunavut. Once these decisions are made the plans are sent to Government for approval. We also include Nunavut Tunngavik and the RIAs in the approval process.

As a co-management regime we have members appointed by Nunavut Tunngavik, the three Regional Inuit Associations, the Government of Canada and Government of Nunavut. Our Commission members are:

- Ron Roach, Chairperson, Government of Canada
- David Newman, Government of Canada
- Frank Ipakohak, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
- Paul Quassa, Vice-Chairperson, Government of Nunavut
- The Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association appointments are outstanding

The Nunavut Planning Commission has an important mandate under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to prepare and implement land use plans that guide and direct resource use and development.

Land use plans do not tell Inuit where to camp or hunt. Land use plans tell others how Inuit want the land and water used today and into the future.

The NPC plans for land outside of community boundaries. The Municipalities are responsible for preparing their own community plans.

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## **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.

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## **Land Use Planning Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement**

Land use planning is a process to decide how best to use the land and resources to achieve your future goals.

Land use plans apply to land, water and resources, and they consider the social, cultural, economic and environmental concerns associated with land use.

Under the NLCA, land includes freshwater, salt water and resources. Resources include fish, wildlife, minerals, oil and gas, other forms of energy like hydro power, gravel, tourism sites, etc.

Land use planning is important because people use the land, water and wildlife for different reasons. Some people camp and hunt for food; others enjoy hiking, watching wildlife or learning about Inuit culture, and

there are others that want to use the land and water for development such as commercial fishing, outfitting, building mines or hydro dams.

Sometimes people disagree on how the land should be used. People might not want a mine built because it is where they go hunting and / or the area might have cultural importance. Land use planning works to solve these disagreements.

Land use plans in Nunavut deal with how resources will be used and how the land, water and Inuit culture will be protected as development occurs.

Land use plans must protect the rights of Inuit set out under the NLCA. For instance land use plans must:

- Devote special attention to protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of Inuit and Inuit Owned Lands;
- Reflect the priorities and values of residents;
- Take into account cultural factors and priorities;
- Give great weight to the views and wishes of the municipalities;
- Be consistent with NLCA Article 5, Wildlife and Article 7 Outpost Camps, and
- Take into account Inuit goals and objectives for Inuit Owned Lands.

Land use plans bring many different people to the table to talk about how to balance development with protection of the environment and Inuit goals. By working together we can use land use plans to identify what types of land use communities support, where it should occur, and how it should occur.

The money that comes from developing resources and the jobs that are created are worth billions of dollars. These land uses provide benefits today, tomorrow and into the future.

A good land use plan sets the minimum requirement for how development of the land should proceed. Plans bring the community voice into the decision making process so government and developers will address the concerns of Inuit.

Approved land use plans tell government, the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Nunavut Water Board, RIA land managers and developers which types of development are appropriate, and identify key goals and issues for communities. This information helps them assess projects which reduces the costs and time associated with environmental assessment and approval processes.

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### **What happens after the plan is finished?**

A plan is finished when it is approved by Inuit and government. Once plans are approved everyone has to follow them. Land use plans are reviewed

every 5 years but people can ask to have them changed at anytime. The Commission will work with you to update the plans.

Where a land use plan exists, the Commission checks all projects to make sure they follow the rules in the plan. This is called a conformity determination. The NPC must check projects before QIA issues any permits. Otherwise projects that break the rules may go forward and damage an area important to Inuit. We need to work together to make sure that QIA follows the land use plans developed for the Inuit and communities of this region.

An important rule in the North Baffin Land Use Plan requires that ships avoid the floe edge in April, May and June.

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### **Broad Land Use Planning Goals**

We have 5 broad goals for land use planning in Nunavut. These goals form the foundation from which the Nunavut Land Use Plan will be built.

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The goals are:

#### ***Goal 1 - Strengthening Partnership and Institutions***

This goal means recognizing and respecting the mandates and jurisdictions of all participants; decision making through discussion and consensus; and working together for a common cause through the integration and application of the principles of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, (IQ).

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#### ***Goal 2 - Protecting and Sustaining the Environment***

The goal of protecting and conserving Nunavut's wildlife, air, land and water is of critical importance for the future well-being of Nunavut's communities and Inuit culture. Through the land use plan we can create rules to ensure that development occurs in a responsible manner.

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#### ***Goal 3 - Encouraging Conservation Planning***

The purpose of conservation planning is to protect the natural environment, culturally significant areas and special places for the benefit of Nunavummiut and all Canadians. Parks and Conservation Areas may be established through

legislation. Other areas of interest may be protected through rules in the land use plan.

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#### ***Goal 4 - Building Healthy Communities***

Promoting and strengthening Inuit culture, heritage and well-being is fundamental to the goal of building healthy communities in Nunavut. The primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the NLCA is to protect and promote the well-being of Nunavut's residents and communities. The NPC works extensively with communities to develop plans that promote their interests as they define them.

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#### ***Goal 5 - Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development***

A primary goal of the NLCA is to create economically self-sufficient communities based on a long-term, healthy, sustainable renewable and non-renewable resource economy. The Nunavut Land Use Plan will encourage a range of economic sectors such as renewable resources, tourism, energy development, mining and oil and gas.

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These 5 goals will guide our Land Use Planning in Nunavut. They are the foundation of the Nunavut Land Use Plan and the NPC will rely on them to identify specific goals for each region.

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#### **Building The Nunavut Land Use Plan**

The Commission continues to work with our partners to prepare a single land use plan for the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Once the Nunavut Land Use Plan is completed it will replace and update the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan, Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan and Draft West Kitikmeot Regional Land Use Plan.

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This year the Nunavut Planning Commission has completed 3 major research projects. The first is a collection of all the current information on the communities. This information provides an overview of the education, employment and other statistical information needed for the land use plan. This information includes all communities of Nunavut. By collecting this

information we are able to understand which communities are benefiting from development. As well we are able to identify the current and future needs of the communities in regards to education, training, infrastructure development and where attention should be focused to ensure communities can manage impacts from development. This report also identifies the current economic activities in Nunavut. We have identified where known current economic activities are occurring, or could occur, on maps. This includes known mineral deposits, current mineral exploration, oil and gas reserves, areas used for commercial fisheries and the location of existing and proposed transportation routes. By identifying where development is occurring or may occur in the future we are able to better plan how to best manage these opportunities so Inuit and communities can prepare for both the impacts and benefits of development.

The second is a collection of all the wildlife areas that scientist and government feel are important. These include maps showing caribou calving grounds, important fish and bird areas and areas of importance to marine mammals. This information will be used together with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to identify important wildlife and hunting areas in Nunavut,

Finally the NPC is collecting information on how to manage the impacts of many different development projects occurring in a single area. This will enable the NPC to develop a process for referring projects to the Nunavut Impact Review Board that may require the environmental assessment to address the combined impacts from development in areas where there is lots of activity (cumulative impacts).

The Commission will be making these reports and related maps available to the Inuit Organizations, communities, Hunters and Trappers Organizations, government and other interested planning partners. We intend to hosts a series of workshops later this year to get feedback on the reports and maps.

The Nunavut Planning Commission continues to work with the Government of Canada, Government and Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to formalize the process that will be used to complete the Nunavut Land Use Plan in the next couple of years.

To complete the Nunavut Land Use Plan quickly the Commission intends to implement an accelerated / phased land use planning process to enable the completion of a Nunavut wide land use plan within 2 years. Once the umbrella land use plan with regional chapters is in place our staff will continue to work with planning partners in the subsequent years to update and revise the plan as new information is collected.

We will be proposing to the parties of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that instead of hosting 25 community visits that 4 regional workshops (Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit, Pond Inlet) will be hosted to enable

planning partners to meet as a group with the NPC staff and designated Commission members. This approach would also enable our Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut and Designated Inuit Organizations to work directly with community representatives. The approach would also enable the interested community planning partners to learn from, and interact with neighbouring communities in their region. As well community representatives, government, industry, Institutions of Public Government and Designated Inuit Organizations (DIO) specialists involved in land management, development and regulation will be able to openly interact and share ideas on how to manage competing land use issues with community representatives. This approach will also provide the opportunity for other partners to more easily and costs effectively participate in the planning process. A regional approach will make the planning process more accessible and interactive for all interested parties and promote the active involvement of both Government and Inuit.

The workshops will continue to focus on the identification of areas where Inuit and municipalities feel that development may not be appropriate at this time. In addition the regional workshops will enable participants to work collaboratively on finding solutions to regional issues. This concept will be taken to the NPC next steps meeting tentatively scheduled between our Executive Director; Regional Director General, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada; Deputy Minister, Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut, and the Chief Executive Officer, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for feedback. We have requested that this meeting occur on November 13, 2008. It is our hope that during this meeting the parties will support and enhance this approach, as set out above, in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding so that the NPC can get to work on completing the Nunavut Land Use Plan in a timely manner.

In closing the Nunavut Planning Commission is committed to:

- Governing with Excellence
- Implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement
- Completing the Nunavut Land Use Plan quickly through a series of strategic steps.

We look forward to working with you and the Inuit of Nunavut as we advance this exciting land use planning initiative.

Thank you