

To: Hava

Ministre des Affaires autochtones
et du développement du Nord



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Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

DEC 13 2011

Mr. Ron Roach
Chairperson
Nunavut Planning Commission
RANKIN INLET NU X0C 0G0

Dear Mr. Roach:

Thank you for your letters of October 20 and November 29, 2011, pertaining to your Commission's land use planning process. As you are aware, I was also copied on your October 25, 2011 letter on the same topic to each of the Honourable Daniel Shewchuk, then Minister of the Environment for the Government of Nunavut, and Ms. Cathy Towtongie, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., respectively.

I am pleased that your Commission has agreed to participate in a third-party review of the planning process. Consistent with our ongoing engagement, the Department remains ready to collaborate on the development of the land use plan.

However, I note with considerable concern the implication repeated in each of your letters that deficiencies in the process, to date, lie principally with the governments of Canada and Nunavut, or with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. It is important to remember that, as an administrative tribunal, the Commission should be open to reconsideration of the procedural fairness and effectiveness of the processes.

You indicated that the rationale provided to your Commission for the third-party review is that Canada, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. "are unable to determine whether the land use planning process is appropriate." Canada has assessed the present process and has raised serious concerns. Most recently, on October 11, 2011, I wrote to you to highlight that the planning process was inadequate and have identified the need for a "fundamental change in the approach to the planning process."

I understand from the previous correspondence that the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. share my expectation that the third-party review is an important step toward developing a process capable of producing a satisfactory plan. I would expect that this review would be concluded in advance of any public consultation.

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Canada

I look forward to your Commission's collaboration and co-operation on working with the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., and the Government of Canada to develop and support the third-party review with the objective of developing a satisfactory land use plan. I trust that your Commission will give serious consideration to its recommendations and ultimately work toward a process that will produce a plan acceptable to the parties that will eventually consider the plan for approval.

The Government of Canada is committed to the success of the Nunavut land use planning process and I look forward to the results of the third-party review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Duncan', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Duncan, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Robert Nicholson, PC, QC, MP
The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay, PC, QC, MP
The Honourable Christian Paradis, PC, MP
The Honourable Denis Lebel, PC, MP
The Honourable Keith Ashfield, PC, MP
The Honourable Peter Kent, PC, MP
The Honourable Ed Fast, PC, MP
The Honourable Joe Oliver, PC, MP
The Honourable James Arreak, MLA
The Honourable Daniel Shewchuck, MLA
Ms. Cathy Towtongie, President, NTI