



Nunavut Regional Office
PO Box 2200
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

February 10, 2023

Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
PO Box 1797
Iqaluit, NU, X0A 0H0

RE: Written Submission on the 2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Dear Sharon:

On behalf of the Government of Canada, please find the attached submission, "Government of Canada Comments and Recommendations on the 2021 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan" (draft Plan). This is the Government of Canada's third submission on the 2021 draft Plan and consolidates the views of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, Transport Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Parks Canada, Department of National Defence, Natural Resources Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Coast Guard on the draft Plan.

The Government of Canada appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan following the Fall 2022 public hearings, as well as the Commission's efforts in carrying out those public hearings. The additional comments and recommendations herein are a result of the Government of Canada's continued analysis and review of the draft Plan that has occurred since its previous submissions on October 8, 2021 and April 14, 2022. Previous Government of Canada comments and recommendations continue to apply unless otherwise stated in this third Government of Canada submission. The Government of Canada is also jointly submitting comments and recommendations along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut on issues where parties have found alignment.

The Crown relies in part on the Commission's process, as laid out in the Nunavut Agreement and the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act*, to assist with discharging the procedural aspects of the Crown's duty to consult with Indigenous peoples. The Government of Canada remains actively engaged throughout the Commission's process, listening to Indigenous concerns and issues and noting how they may be resolved. The Commission's final draft Plan and Options and accompanying





documents that will be submitted to the approving parties, along with the Government of Canada's identification of those concerns and potential solutions, provides federal decision-makers information that allows them to assess the adequacy of Crown consultation, and forms the basis of the Minister's decision and subsequent consideration by Governor-in-Council. The Government of Canada therefore urges Indigenous peoples to focus their efforts on providing the Commission with all the information it will need to evaluate and revise the draft plan, as may be necessary and to understand how it might affect their rights and interests, including asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982.

Translations are underway for the French, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun versions and will be provided to the Commission as soon as available.

Should you or your staff have any questions regarding the submission, please do not hesitate to contact Spencer Dewar, Director, Resource Management, at (867) 975-4546 or myself at (867) 975-4501.

Sincerely,

Terry Audla
Regional Director General
Nunavut Region
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada