

January 11, 2017

Andrew Nakashuk
Chairperson
Nunavut Planning Commission
P.O. Box 1797
Iqaluit, NU. XOA OHO

Dear Chairperson Nakashuk,

As you are aware the Nunavut Association of Municipalities submitted a proposal to the Federal Government for assistance to help Nunavut communities prepare written submissions for the final hearings on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP). Unfortunately, the proposal was not approved.

Since then, the NAM Executive Director has been in contact with most of the Hamlets on their progress in completing their submissions, which are due January 13. The results of inquiries are as follows:

Thirteen communities have advised they are not prepared to submit comments by January 13. Seven communities are not sure, or it was not possible to contact anyone knowledgeable of the file. Four communities are preparing to submit, and one indicated the Council approved the draft plan. No community plans on having it translated into all the required languages.

In discussing the file with the municipalities, a common theme that surfaced was no one was clear whose responsibility it is to lead the community consultations (e.g. Hamlets, HTA's etc.). Other factors for delays were due Christmas festivities, Hamlet elections, and most Councils are taking oath of office last week. Most Councils hold up on business in December, considering Section 134 of the Hamlet Act, which states:

Limit on powers after election day

134. (1) During the period commencing on election day and ending on the day the term of new council members begins, no council or council member shall

- (a) make a by-law or resolution that will result, directly or indirectly, in an expenditure not set out in the budget for the current fiscal year;
- (b) enter into a contract or obligation on behalf of the municipal corporation;
or
- (c) appoint or dismiss any officer of the municipal corporation.

Furthermore, we are also aware of the letter dated December 7, 2015, submitted to NPC by NTI. This letter details their concerns for the community consultation process following conclusion of the regional community consultation meetings. NAM fully supports the points and issues raised in the NTI letter, and agrees that the goal in reviewing the DNLUP can not be completed at the expense of the Inuit and community participation in the land use planning process.

For the above reasons, the community of Grise Fiord, is writing to request a one month extension for submitting written briefs currently due January 13. We also request this letter be placed on the NPC's Consultation Record.

Thanking you for attention to this important matter in advance, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely

x 

Mayor or SAO

Hamlet of Grise Fiord