

Longyearbyen, 13.07.2017

To Whom It May Concern

We wish to express support for the development of the Nunavut Land Use Plan and to open a dialogue on how we might join the consultation process.

AECO is an international organization of Arctic expedition cruise operators. AECO consists of almost 70 international members who operate more than 40 vessels in Svalbard, Greenland, Canada and the Russian Arctic. AECO also has several Canadian members. Many of AECO's members have been engaged in expedition cruise tourism in the Canadian Arctic and other Arctic regions since the 1980s.

AECO is dedicated to the promotion of responsible, environmentally friendly and safe expedition cruise tourism all over the Arctic. AECO members also work diligently to ensure the utmost consideration for local cultures, flora, fauna and cultural remains. To achieve this AECO has developed many guidelines, that regulate the members' operations and our visitors' behavior.

The intention of this letter is to express our interest in dialogue and cooperation with the ongoing **Nunavut Land Use Plan (NLUP)** work, which has recently come to our attention. We realize that this work is in its final stages and that a series of consultation processes have taken place.

As an organization representing Arctic expedition cruise operators, we would appreciate an opportunity to join the dialogue regarding the finalization of the NLUP. AECO takes the complexities of cruise operations in the Arctic very seriously, including community involvement, and would be happy to assist and be a part of the development of shared solutions for the future to ensure tourism in Nunavut is carried out in a sustainable way.

AECO is currently involved in a Transport Canada working group regarding guidance information for passenger vessels operating in the Canadian Arctic, and has participated in several Canadian Coast Guard initiatives and other initiatives relevant to vessel operations in the Canadian Arctic. We would welcome an opportunity for dialogue with the Planning Commission and other interested Inuit organizations and communities to better understand their needs and to answer any questions regarding our members and their operations.

Please find attached to this letter the Nunavut Master Cruise Itinerary for this season, where AECO member operators have been highlighted. As you can see, AECO has a significant presence with vessels operating under AECO guidelines and regulations. We also have

member organizations who run private vessel expeditions and they also manage their operations under AECO guidance.

More information about AECO is available on our website: www.aeco.no

We are very much looking forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Frigg Jørgensen
Executive director