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Nunavunmi Parnaiyit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

December 16, 2016

James T. Arreak
Chief Executive Officer
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
PO Box 638, Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Dear Mr. Arreak,

RE: Community Participants and Direction on Procedures

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 2016 regarding community participants and direction on procedures. I have been directed to respond by Andrew Nakashuk, Chairperson of the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC). The Commission appreciates the ongoing participation of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) in the development of the Draft Nunavut Land use Plan (DNLUP), including during the recent Regional Pre-Hearing conferences and Community Feedback Sessions.

In your letter, you request that the NPC lead additional community consultations on the DNLUP in each Nunavut community. As the NPC has previously stated, we do not have the human or financial resources for such an undertaking. The Regional Pre-Hearing Conferences were held, in part, in response to similar requests from NTI, and required supplementary funding and an extension to the timeline for the public hearing. As you are aware, this process has been ongoing for nearly 10 years. Timelines have repeatedly been extended, and the Commission has most recently directed that the public hearing take place in March 2017. With funding now in place for the public hearing, including for the participation of up to 5 representatives from each community, the Commission is committed to proceeding according to the current timelines.

I note that NTI was previously provided an opportunity to review the agenda for the Regional Pre-Hearing Conferences and Community Feedback Sessions, and NTI Director Hannah Uniuqsaraq provided comments to me on October 7, 2016 identifying sessions in which NTI wished to participate by making comments and presentations, and to be available for questions from community members. NPC staff members also met with Ms. Uniuqsaraq on October 12, 2016 to allow NTI to provide a specific presentation on Inuit Owned Lands, and NPC staff revised the Regional Pre-Hearing Conferences and Community Feedback Sessions agenda to accommodate NTI's requests. NTI did not raise concerns regarding consultations in its comments provided on October 7 or 12, or during the NTI's participation in the Regional Pre-Hearing Conferences and Community Feedback Sessions.

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In your letter, you have also requested several revisions to the October 7, 2016 Direction on Procedure to make clear that:

- *community participants and community organizations that are participants can provide oral submissions on any topic areas related to the DNLUP 2016 at the public hearing, and can do so regardless of whether they have provided written submissions;*
- *community participants and community organizations that are participants may provide written submissions until three weeks before the public hearing;*
- *submission of translated documents is voluntary and that participants are allowed to submit documents in their language of choice in all instances;*
- *NPC's Consultation Record can be utilized to make documents available in lieu of the current service requirements.*

The NPC will not be in a position to issue further Direction on Procedure before January 13, 2017. Commissioners will decide the specifics of any Direction on Procedure, but staff will recommend a clarification that participants may provide oral submissions related to the DNLUP at the public hearing regardless of whether they have provided written submissions. Although a new Direction on Procedure has not yet been issued and the existing service requirements should be presumed to apply until further notice, staff have been posting filed documents online and notifying participants, and staff will also recommend to Commissioners that the current service requirements in the rules and Direction on Procedure be waived (retroactively) in lieu of the NPC making the documents available online, and notifying participants of documents that have been received. The January 13, 2017 deadline for written submissions continues to apply to all participants, and we continue to encourage participants to provide written submissions in English, French, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun.

The NPC looks forward to hearing the views of NTI and all participants on the DNLUP, as we move towards our shared goal of an approved Nunavut Land Use Plan.

Respectfully,



Sharon Ehaloak
Executive Director

CC:

Andrew Nakashuk, Chairperson, Nunavut Planning Commission
Paul Emingak, Executive Director, Kitikmeot Inuit Association
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Executive Director, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Navarana Beveridge, Executive Director, Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Stephen Van Dine, Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister, Environment, Government of Nunavut