



November 15, 2018

Nunavut Planning Commission  
Box 1797, Iqaluit,  
Nunavut X0A 0H0

[submissions@nunavut.ca](mailto:submissions@nunavut.ca)

Re: 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP)

Thank you for the opportunity to review the 2016 version of the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP). We recognize that the July 16, 2018 Notice regarding the reopening of record for written submissions on the DNLUP discourages duplication of previous documentation. The purpose of this submission is to draw your attention to what we believe may be an oversight regarding our September 15, 2015 submission.

The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers (HTO) requests that the Nunavut Planning Commission review the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit provided on the four freshwater caribou crossing maps provided in our earlier submission. It is difficult for the HTO to determine with accuracy given challenges of scale, however, it appears that some of our key caribou water crossings may have been overlooked.

Specifically, we believe the following areas may have been missed in the 2016 DNLUP:

**Water Crossing Map 1 (Pelly Lake to Gary Lake)**

- Sites 1,2,6,7 excluded from a Protected Area Designation. Instead these areas are included under a Special Management Area for Key Bird habitat on the Middle Back River;

- Sites 3,4,5 cannot confirm;

**Water Crossing Map 2 (Beverly Lake to Baker Lake)**

- Sites 22, 23 (Whitehills Lake) excluded;
- Sites 25 – 27 (Pitz Lake) excluded;

**Water Crossing Map 3**

- Site 35 Quoich River excluded, and

**Water Crossing Map 4**

- Sites 31, 32 Thirty Mile Lake) cannot confirm.

The HTO is in full support of the DNLUP and Options and Recommendations Document (ORD). In particular, the HTO agrees with the decision-making processes applied to protect important caribou habitat in our region. We respectfully request that the NPC review our previous submission to ensure that these important water crossings are not excluded from the final approved NLUP.

The HTO would like to add that it recognizes efforts have been made to improve upon the Mobile Caribou Protection Measures (MCPM) first introduced nearly 50 years ago. However, we believe that the decline in caribou populations is beyond improvements to the application of MCPM requirements on land users. We must think of how to protect these few islands of habitat in Nunavut's landscape for the future of the species.

In our view the land use plan must contain protected areas which; along with other land management tools, will be necessary to seriously address the continuing decline of caribou in our region. If we do not take meaningful action now we may never know if, through this action, herds might return to historic sizes. The final approved plan must protect important caribou habitat as outlined in the 2016 DNLUP.

In closing, the HTO remains hopeful that the areas noted above will be reevaluated against the current criteria of the 2016 ORD and included in the final approved NLUP as protected areas. If you have questions or would like additional information please do not hesitate to contact Hugh Nateela, Manager.

Respectfully,



Richard Aksawnee, Chairperson

Cc: Kivalliq Wildlife Board