

Written Submission No. 16

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

**Community Areas of Interest –Snow Goose, Brant and Canada Goose
Harvesting**

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and
the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Pond
Inlet and Iqaluit

Background Information:

Snow geese, brant and Canada geese are critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Iqaluit and other communities. Without protection of the communities' harvesting areas for these Arctic geese species, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents and communities as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

The Inuit of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet and Iqaluit utilize specific areas each year for harvesting of eggs, meat and other resources from these species, as well as for family and cultural activities important to the communities.

These areas are also valuable for the annual production, health and conservation of Greater Snow geese, Brant and Canada geese populations at the regional and national levels. Among Inuit of Arctic Bay, southern Admiralty Inlet is known as a feeding and breeding 'home' for snow geese. Important nesting areas near other communities have been known to Inuit for generations.

With both brant and snow geese, the area around and west of Eleanor Lake on Cornwallis Island is one of few goose harvesting areas accessible to Inuit from Resolute Bay in spring and early summer. The areas on Somerset Island are well known among Inuit as being important for snow goose harvesting and nesting, as well as nesting sandhill cranes.

Near Nalluat (ᐃᓕᓂᐱᓕ) on western Navy Board Inlet, the nesting and summering area for snow geese and other birds has been an important area for Inuit and their ancestors since time immemorial. There are important recent and historical sites in this area, as well archeological sites. Tourist ships, yachts and sail boats should be prohibited from docking at or near this site to prevent harassment of geese (see also WS-21 regarding no shipping in the narwhal harvesting area along the west coast of Navy Board Inlet). Tourists should be allowed to visit only if guided by knowledgeable Inuit from Pond Inlet.

Canada geese are harvested by Inuit from Iqaluit in several valleys and on islands around Frobisher Bay.

During Upingaaq and Aujaq, these areas must be protected from disturbance by all non-traditional activities, and from any activities and long-term development in other seasons that may impact the use of these areas by Arctic geese, other birds, and Inuit.

Special Note: The QWB and the HTOs have chosen **not** to indicate these areas as Key Migratory Bird Sites (KMBS). In section 2.1, the 2016 draft NLUP sets criteria for KMBS based on percentages of a species national population or on recognition of critical habitat under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA). These KMBS criteria consider the interests of all Canadians, but do not "... protect and promote the existing and future well being of those persons ordinarily resident and communities of the Nunavut Settlement Area" (Nunavut Final Agreement Article 11, Section 11.2.1 (b)). In order to meet that objective, IQ and needs of Inuit in the communities must be taken fully into account.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Special Management Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Conditions:

- During Upingaaq and Aujaq, Snow Goose Brant and Canada Geese Harvesting Areas must not be disturbed by any non-traditional human activities.
- Any projects and activities must shut-down during Upingaaq and Aujaq in these areas.
- Wind turbines for electrical generation should be prohibited within 10 km of goose nesting areas until they can be proven to be safe for geese and will not impact Inuit harvesting.
- No long-term development and land uses may occur in any season if they may impact future use by snow geese, brant, or Canada geese in these areas.

- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the aerial, marine and terrestrial setbacks in a modified Table 2¹ for all migratory birds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate any of these conditions is prohibited.

Additional Conditions for 16H (Nalluat):

- Tourism access by ship, yachts and sail boats is prohibited.
- Tourists may be allowed only if guided by knowledgeable Inuit from Pond Inlet.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest - Snow Goose, Brant and Canada Geese Harvesting:

The following table gives the map numbers and general location of these important snow goose, Canada goose and brant harvesting areas, as shown on the attached maps and the associated shp files.

Snow Goose and Brant Nesting Site #	Description of Location	Important Species
16AA	Strathcona Sound	Snow Geese
16A	Mouth of Magda River and nearby coast of Admiralty Inlet	Snow Geese
16B	Southwestern coast of Admiralty Inlet	Snow Geese
16C	Eleanor Lake, Cornwallis Island	Snow Geese and Brant
16D	Southern Aston Bay, Somerset Island	Snow Geese
16E	Northern Stanwell Fletcher Lake, Somerset Island	Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes
16F	Northern Creswell Bay, Somerset Island	Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes
16G	Cape Garry, Somerset Island	Snow Geese and Sandhill Cranes
16H	Nalluat, northern Baffin Island	Snow Geese
16I	Jordan River, southern Baffin Island	Canada Geese

¹ Modified Table 2 refers to a version of Table 2 that incorporates modifications recommended in Written Submission No. 14 from the QWB and its associated HTOs.

16J	Burton Bay, southern Baffin Island	Canada Geese
16K	Cantley Bay, southern Baffin Island	Canada Geese
16L	Cormack Bay, southern Baffin Island	Canada Geese
16M	Pike and 4 other islands in Fletcher Channel, southern Baffin Island (1.5-km marine ship setback included)	Canada Geese
16N	Waddell Bay, southern Baffin Island	Canada Geese
16O	Cyrus Field Bay, southern Baffin Island	Canada Geese

References:

Schuster, E., Bulling, L. and Köppel. 2015. Consolidating the State of Knowledge: A Synoptical Review of Wind Energy's Wildlife Effects. *J. Environmental Management* 56: 300.

Tabassum-Abbasi, M.T, T. Abbasi and S.A. Abbasi. 2014. Wind energy: Increasing deployment, rising environmental concerns. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 31: 270-288.

Wang, S. and S. Wang. 2015. Impacts of wind energy on environment: A review. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*. 49: 437-443.

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