



July 3, 2013

Government of Nunavut  
P.O. Box 1000, Stn. 1320  
Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Attn: David Akeeagok, Deputy Minister  
Department of Environment

*Delivered by Electronic Mail*

**Re: A Geospatial Representation of the Government of Nunavut's Priorities for Land Use Planning at a Territorial Scale**

Dear David,

This letter is in response to the above noted document provided to the Commission May 14, 2013. It is in response to a series of specific information requests developed during the initial issue scoping exercise undertaken by the Commission in 2009. We certainly appreciate the efforts your government has made in developing the series of hard copy maps and the accompanying report.

However, while we understand that "the maps are designed as a tool to target specific areas for further investigation through the land use planning process", the present format of the submission limits its application to a visual aid that identifies "hotspot" areas. You will appreciate that without a full understanding of the underlying rationale, the Commission is limited in its ability to incorporate the information provided.

In addition to the information being provided in GIS-compatible digital format, the Commission would need the following details before it could apply the GN's analysis in any meaningful way beyond simply referencing the results:

- the reasons why the areas are considered important;
- digital boundaries of the various valued components considered;
- suggestions as to how hotspots that are regional and sub-regional in scale are to be managed on a territory wide scale;
- the weighting criteria and values used to identify and categorize the areas; and
- an explanation as to how the weighting system was designed and implemented.

The Commission appreciates that while it would like the above information provided prior to the September "Filling the Gaps Workshop" on September 17-19, 2013, there may not be time for the GN to provide that level of detail. That said, the Commission will be asking for the GN's assistance during the workshop in gaining a fuller understanding of the GN submission.

The Commission will continue to emphasize the need for full transparency so that it can justify the use of whatever information it incorporates in the DNLUP including how data is used and the types of information it is seeking to support future land use planning decisions. Deadlines for providing data and information to the Commission have been set out in the "guide to engagement" document the Commission provided in April 2013.

Thank you again for your submission. As you'll recall, the Independent Third Party Review (ITPR) states that "all the Parties need to be more realistic about what can be achieved in the first iteration of the Nunavut land use plan". The Commission holds this as a principle to guide us through completion of the first generation Nunavut Land Use Plan by March 2015 and looks forward to future engagement with GN as we collectively move forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Boyd".

Adrian Boyd  
Acting Executive Director

cc: Alain Greiner, A/RDG  
James Arreak, CEO