



Application for Standing in Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Final Hearing

May 29, 2015

The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) is interested in participating in the Nunavut Planning Commission's (NPC) Final Hearing process. HTOs were not listed in the "Parties" to the final hearing. The HTO is therefore unsure if a full standing application is required or not.

Organization Information

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Preferred language of correspondence:

Inuktitut and English

Reasons for Participation in Final Hearing:

The Baker Lake Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) is an HTO constituted under section 5.7 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Each community in Nunavut has an HTO, with membership open to all land claim beneficiaries in the community. The powers and

functions of HTOs are laid out in section 5.7.3 of the NLCA, and include the regulation of harvesting practices and techniques, the allocation and enforcement of basic needs levels, and the general management of harvesting among its membership.

The development of a new land use plan will directly affect the Baker Lake HTO, its members, and its responsibilities under the NLCA. In particular, protecting (or failing to protect) critical wildlife habitat and areas of community land use may affect the ability of HTO members to engage in basic needs level harvest and commercial harvest of a number of species.

The Baker Lake HTO, will help ensure that the perspectives of hunters are adequately represented through the Final Hearing process, especially as pertains to caribou. Baker Lake is the most caribou-dependent community in Nunavut. The Baker Lake HTO board and membership possesses a wealth of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and other land-based information about caribou and caribou hunting. The HTO will help ensure that this information is used throughout the planning process.

Nature and Scope of Participation

The Baker HTO will provide written submissions to the planning commission and (if resources permit) will make oral presentations at the technical meetings, pre-hearing conference, and final hearing. The HTO is currently seeking resources to travel and participate in these meetings.

The Baker Lake HTO's participation will focus on caribou habitat and areas of community land use. The HTO's participation will ensure that the terms and direction for these areas provide adequate protection to wildlife and Inuit culture, ensuring that caribou hunting near Baker Lake continues to meet economic, social, and cultural needs of residents in a sustainable fashion.

With regards to caribou habitat, the Baker Lake HTO is most interested in how a new land use plan will protect caribou calving grounds, post-calving grounds, water crossings, and migration routes.

With regards to areas of community land use, the Baker Lake HTO is most interested in how a new land use plan will protect areas that are of a very high cultural value to our community.

The Baker Lake HTO's interest in the land use planning process is, however, not limited to caribou habitat and caribou hunting. The Baker Lake HTO is interested in all ways that a new land use plan may impact our membership's ability to harvest. Land use classifications that restrict local harvest, protect the habitat of wildlife species harvested by our membership, and protect important cultural and heritage areas, are of broad interest to the Baker Lake HTO. Species harvested by our membership include (but are not limited to) caribou, muskox, wolf, fox, wolverine, tundra grizzly, and various fish species.

The Baker Lake HTO is aware that the existing Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP) will become void once the new Nunavut Land Use Plan comes into effect. The Baker Lake HTO is concerned that many of the provisions in the KRLUP that are important to hunters might not be brought forward into the new Nunavut-wide plan. The Baker Lake HTO would like to have an open and public discussion with the NPC about what provisions from the KRLUP have been left out of the new Nunavut-wide plan, and why they were left out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Aksawnee', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Aksawnee
Chairperson