

Issatik Hunters & Trappers Organization

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Andrew Nakashuk
A/Chair, Nunavut Planning Commission

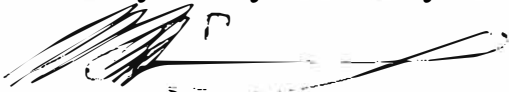
September 30, 2015

RE: Submission for Nunavut Land Use Plan

Mr. Nakashuk,

Please accept the Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization's (HTO) submission for the final hearing for the Nunavut Land Use Plan. The Issatik HTO would like all mining and exploration activity banned in calving and post calving grounds.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our proposal.



Solomon Voisey Sr.
Chair, Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization

CC:

Cathy Towtongie, President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
David Ningeongan, President, Kivalliq Inuit Association
Stanley Adjuk, Chair, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Whale Cove Hamlet Council
Jonathan Savoy, Senior Planner, Nunavut Planning Commission
Peter Sholz, Senior Planner, Nunavut Planning Commission
Leah Muckpah, Regional Coordinator, Kivalliq Wildlife Board
Karla Letto, Wildlife Biologist, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Earl Evans, Chair, Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

Issatik Hunters and Trappers Organization Submission for the Nunavut Land Use Plan

The Issatik (Whale Cove) HTO directors agreed that mining and exploration should be banned in caribou calving and post calving grounds for the time being. Based on our traditional knowledge, this area should include, at minimum, the area between Dawson Inlet, Banks Lake, and Quartzite Lake. The HTO suggests the NPC consult with the Government of Nunavut for information about the areas caribou use for calving and post calving.

It was very difficult for the HTO directors to arrive at this decision. Our community is in need of employment, and mineral exploration has provided valuable seasonal employment to our community. However, we believe there should be enough opportunities for mining and exploration in other areas that caribou do not use for calving and post-calving.

We recommend to protect these areas because:

- 1) **It is the recommendation of local Elders to do so.** The HTO consulted with Elders in developing this position. They recommended we protect calving grounds, at least for the time being.
- 2) **It is the recommendation of the Kivalliq Wildlife Board, and the other HTOs from the Kivalliq Region.** The Issatik HTO is aware that all other HTOs from the region have repeatedly requested calving and post-calving grounds be protected. These HTOs arrived at this position after consulting with Elders from their communities. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board has made the same request.
- 3) **It is the recommendation of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB).** The BQCMB has repeatedly recommended that mining and exploration be banned in calving and post calving grounds. The BQCMB brings together expertise from biologists, as well as traditional knowledge from Inuit, Dene, and Metis from Nunavut, the Northwest territories, and Saskatchewan.

- 4) **If we change our minds in the future, we can always open these areas up for development.** If we decide mining in these areas is necessary at a later date, we can request the planning commission amend the land use plan, and remove the protected area status.
- 5) **If we allow companies to explore in the area now, it will be very difficult for us to change our minds and make them leave.** Once a company is given mineral rights to an area, it is very difficult to take them away. By protected these areas now, we keep our options open for the future.
- 6) **The current protection measures for caribou are insufficient.** We have observed the impacts of exploration and low-flying aircraft near our community. Since exploration began nearby, caribou no longer come close to our community, especially in the fall. This happens, even though the company has promised to stop activity when caribou are nearby. If this sort of activity took place in the calving grounds, it could seriously impact the health of the herds.
- 7) **The Issatik HTO has passed resolutions opposing mining and exploration in calving and post calving grounds in the past.** In 2013, the HTO passed a resolution opposing Anconia Resources' exploration project in the calving grounds. A copy of this resolution is attached as an appendix.

The Issatik HTO board of directors passed a motion approving this submission on September 29, 2015.

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Thursday, February 28, 2013

Anconia Resources;

The Whale Cove HTO (Hunters and Trappers Organization) board of directors held a meeting dated Tuesday, January 29th, 2013 and discussed a request for support for exploration and possible mining and development activities in the Victory Lake area.

The Whale Cove HTO does not agree with permitting exploration and/or development activities on the calving and post-calving grounds of the Qamanirjuaq Herd, and a motion to not approve such activities and provide all stakeholders with a letter indicating the same approved.

To protect the calving and post-calving grounds of the Qamanirjuaq Herd both now and into the future, the Whale Cove HTO board of directors have motioned and all agree to oppose Anconia's Victory Lake Project and any other exploration/proposed development projects on the calving and post-calving grounds of the Qamanirjuaq Herd based on IQ, the advice of other local HTOs across the Kivalliq, the Kivalliq Wildlife Board as well as recommendations from the BQCMB.

Moved By: _Roy Kriterdluk_____

Seconded By: _Gerard Maktar_____

Motion # _09/01/13_____ -Carried-

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please contact the Whale Cove HTO at the contact information provided below.

Signed;

Stanley Adjuk
Whale Cove HTO Chairman
As directed by the Whale Cove HTO Board of Directors
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