



Tłıchǫ Government

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Andrew Nakashuk, Acting Chairperson
Nunavut Planning Commission
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Via email: jtwerdin@nunavut.ca

Re: Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan - Tłıchǫ Government – Written Comments

Dear Mr. Nakashuk

The Tłıchǫ Government would like to thank the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (the Plan). The Tłıchǫ Government recognizes the importance of a finalized land use plan as a critical tool in the overall management and protection of our lands and resources. Our own land use plan was completed in 2013 and guides the Tłıchǫ today in how we will make decisions on our lands. We wish you success in the finalization of this important document.

The Barren-ground Caribou and in particular the Bluenose East and Bathurst herds play a crucial role in the culture, language and way life of the Tłıchǫ people. It is because of this intimate connection between the health of the Barren-ground Caribou herd and the Tłıchǫ way of life, the Tłıchǫ Government is sharing our perspective on the Plan and specifically measures to protect the Barren-ground caribou calving and post-calving grounds in Nunavut.

Overall Tłıchǫ Government finds the plan robust and well developed, and Tłıchǫ Government is pleased to see that it includes proposed measures to protect the Barren-ground caribou calving and post-calving grounds. These herds are in a critical period of herd decline. Public Hearings are underway in the Northwest Territories to address the issues associated with the herd decline. This is a period of deep concern to all Tłıchǫ.

The Tłıchǫ Government supports the proposed measures relating to the caribou calving and post-calving grounds specifically those that contemplate the creation of Protected Areas for core Barren-ground caribou calving areas. The Tłıchǫ Government recognizes the need to create measures that are protective to ensure no further impacts to the herds, but also allow flexibility to accommodate the potential for sustainable development that does not risk further impact to the herds.

The calving grounds and post-calving grounds have significant importance for caribou and all harvesters, especially aboriginal peoples, whose harvesting depends on the state of those calving grounds. Tłıchǫ Government supports the NPC in including measures to protect these critically important habitat areas.

We thank the Board for your attention to our comments, and we look forward to further participating in the process to finalize the Plan.

If you have any questions please contact Sjoerd van der Wielen, Lands Manager, Tłıchǫ Government, at sjoerdvanderwielen@tlicho.com

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Sjoerd van der Wielen
Lands Manager, Tłıchǫ Government

