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RE: Issues, Vision and Goals for the Nunavut Land Use Planning Process

Dear Kevin, Dionne and Jim,

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) is beginning work on a new land use planning process for all of Nunavut. Steps 1 and 2 of our process involve the identification of planning issues, and a vision and goals to guide plan development. We are requesting input from your organizations into these important steps.

The NPC has approved plans in place for two of the six planning regions. We have been exploring methods to streamline our activities to get planning completed or revised for all regions simultaneously. As a result, NPC is now advancing a new planning process for all of Nunavut which will include regional components as envisioned under section 11.5.1 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA).

This new approach requires research at two levels: Nunavut-wide and regional (for each of the 6 planning regions). While NPC will be focusing initially on establishing Nunavut-wide guidance and direction, it will be important to understand regional issues and goals to feed into that overall framework and provide the basis for regional components.

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As frontline organizations responsible for managing environmental assessment, water and wildlife in Nunavut, you have firsthand knowledge of issues important to Nunavummiut. We would appreciate your input in identifying land use issues for which you feel a land use plan would be effective in providing appropriate direction.

This is an opportunity to increase the efficiency of the regulatory system in Nunavut. In the absence of land use plans, many issues are raised in project-specific reviews that are better suited to land use planning. By addressing such issues through land use plans and providing broad, consistent direction, we can reduce the number or complexity of issues raised in later stages of the regulatory process, and provide a framework for more consistent, coordinated decision-making to achieve larger goals.

For each issue you identify, it would be helpful if you could: (1) provide an overview of the issue; (2) identify whether you feel it is regional or territorial in scope, or territorial with regional differences in perspectives; (3) provide some background as to the context in which it has been raised (e.g. specific project applications, specific communities or land uses); and (4) identify where we might find more detailed information for further research (i.e. specific reports).

As per Step 2 of our planning process, we are also developing a vision and goals for both Nunavut and the 6 planning regions to guide land use decisions. We would like to provide your organizations with the opportunity to contribute to these, to share your visions for the future, and to identify regional and territorial goals to guide land use decisions.

Land use planning addresses four aspects of our environment: social, cultural, ecological and economic. Therefore, the land use issues we address, and the vision and goals we develop must also address all four aspects of the environment. While biophysical elements are most commonly discussed, please keep the other three aspects in mind when identifying issues, a vision and goals.

We value the experience your organizations have in managing land, water and resources in Nunavut and consider your input important for shaping the future of our planning process. Please submit your comments to NPC by **September 28th**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (867) 983-4631 or hwiebe@npc.nunavut.ca.

Respectfully,



Heidi Wiebe
Policy Specialist

Cc: Stephanie Briscoe, Executive Director, NIRB