



February 15, 2010

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Executive Offices
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

Attention: Right Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada

Re: Commission and Nunavut Land Use Plan Update

Dear Minister Strahl,

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2010 responding to the Commission letter of July 14/09. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the Commission's organizational development over the last few years, the status of the Nunavut Land Use Plan, the timeline and the agreed process as outlined in the approved 11.4.1.a Document.

In November 2007 the Commission approved broad planning policies, objectives and goals for the Nunavut Settlement Area in conjunction with the Government of Canada, Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. This 11.4.1a document, another first for Nunavut, sets the parameters which guide the development of the NLUP.

Over the past 4 years the Commission has completely overhauled its operations to align itself with: Treasury Board Guidelines; recommendations of the Auditor General's Office regarding the governance of public boards; best practices endorsed by the Canadian Institute of Planners, and Inuit values of trust, respect and working together.

On January 21, 2009 the Commission Executive Director along with Michael Nadler, Regional Director General, the Deputy Minister, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Government of Nunavut and the Chief Executive Officer, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated agreed to a timeline and framework to complete the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

The Commission has since modified the final submission date of that timeline. Originally we agreed to February 2011. However, we have now changed that date to June 2011. This additional time was needed to allow some of the federal government departments more time to update scientific research required for decision making.

I am pleased to report at this time that the Commission, in collaboration with federal and territorial government departments, and the Inuit of Nunavut collectively, have made fantastic progress on the development of the Nunavut Land Use Plan.

The Commission continues to receive great support from government and the Inuit organizations of Nunavut. I should note that the Commission is actively communicating with Makivik and the Manitoba and Athabasca Denesuline as part of the consultative process. The public participation aspect of our land use planning process begins in October 2010.

The Commission intends to complete the draft plan by September 2010. We will make the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan public in October 2010 and solicit written and oral comments from all appropriate federal and territorial government agencies, communities, industry and the general public over the winter.

A final public hearing on the draft plan will be hosted in March 2011 in Iqaluit, Nunavut. The Final Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan will be submitted to the Government of Canada and Government of Nunavut for approval by June 2011.

In regards to the funding request made on July 14, 2009 and on several previous occasions, the Commission brings to your attention that as an institute of Public Government created through the signing of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; the Commission still is working with the funding level negotiated in 1993 resulting from no new Ten Year Funding Agreement being signed between the respective parties. The Commission has worked efficiently with the funding provided and has noted for the last three fiscal years a funding shortfall annually of approximately 1.7 million dollars in our zero based budgeting exercise. This shortfall amount is without any costs associated with the implementation of the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NUPPAA) Legislation.

In Closing, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the federal government departments who are active in the land use planning process in Nunavut. Specifically the Departments of: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, Parks Canada, National Defence, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Transport Canada. These departments have provided superior support and feedback into the Commission's land use planning process.

The Commission looks forward to the coming months and the continued support of the Government of Canada as we move into the final phase our land use planning process in Nunavut.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Roach".

Ron Roach, Chair
Nunavut Planning Commission

CC: The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, PC, MP
 Dennis Patterson, Senator for Nunavut