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Athabasca Denesuliné Negotiation Team

May 28, 2010

Nunavut Planning Commission
PO BOX 2101
CAMBRIDGE BAY, NU
X0B 0C0

Contacts:

Adrian Boyd, Director, aboyd@nunavut.ca
Jonathan Savoy, Policy Analyst, jsavoy@nunavut.ca

Dear Sirs,

Re: Athabasca Denesuline Comment on NPC Priority Areas Map

The Athabasca Denesuline (AD) have reviewed the Priority Area Map and have several concerns to bring to your attention.

Our major concern is that there is no mention of the Athabasca Denesuline. This is despite the fact that the Athabasca Denesuline have provided the NPC with detailed information about our issues, concerns and territory.

In November 2009 we sent a letter to NPC outlining AD issues and concerns as well as a poster map showing the AD Traditional Land Use (TLU) data and a shape-file containing those data buffered by 2km. In March 2010, NPC requested additional information data and we then sent two shape-files containing the AD area of Interest in Nunavut and the preliminary conservation zones the AD are considering adjunct the Nunavut border in the NWT.

We understand that the AD area of interest data may have reached you too late for inclusion on the NPC "Priority Areas Map", but the general details about AD land usage and our concerns were available to you prior to the creation of your map. Further, the next steps mentioned by the NPC do not include the consideration of other aboriginal groups interests. We fully expect that the NPC to consider and include our information and concerns within the Nunavut LUP.

Also, inside our area of interest, the Priority Area Map indicates that the Kazan River is designated as a conservation zone. While the AD may support such a designation, it is paramount that the Athabasca Denesuline be involved in the determination of any zones within their traditional territory.

c/o Prince Albert Grand Council

~~Suite 206, 1004 1st Avenue West, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 4Y4~~

Email: rrobillard@pagc.sk.ca or rgood@pagc.sk.ca

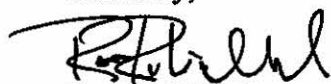
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2350, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 6Z1

Phone: 306 622 7612 or 306 622 7613 Fax: 306 622 2072

As previously mentioned, the Athabasca Denesuline are extremely concerned about the protection of the Caribou and their habitats. In particular, the calving grounds and post calving grounds of the Beverly and other herds need to be addressed within the Nunavut Land Use plan in a manner that goes beyond the application of the general caribou management guidelines established by the Crown. We urge the NPC to give serious consideration to the work of the BQCMB including their 2004 position paper "Protecting Calving Grounds, Post-Calving Areas and Other Important Habitats for Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou."

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NPC Priority Area Map and look forward to having the next version of the map (and other aspects of the NPC planning process) include Athabasca Denesuline issues. We look forward to continuing work with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Robillard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron Robillard

Chief Negotiator, Athabasca Denesuline