



June 9, 2010

Simon Awa, Deputy Minister
Department of Environment
Government of Nunavut
Box 1000, Stn. 1300
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Via e-mail: Simon.Awa@gov.nu.ca

Dear Mr. Awa,

Re: Wildlife Research Report

During our meeting in Iqaluit May 13, 2010, Mr. Earle Baddaloo, ADM advised me that GN DOE have concerns with the Wildlife Report contained on the Nunavut Planning Commission website. This letter is to formally follow up on requests made to your staff for information to which we have not received any responses to date.

As background the Nunavut Planning Commission's (NPC) Nunavut Land Claims Agreement 11.4.1(a) document states that: *"Land use planning, as informed by these Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals, will rely on the best available Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific information as a basis for decisions. The absence of information does not preclude the necessity to make land use planning decisions and to conclude the plan development process in a timely manner."*

Following approval of 11.4.1(a) the Commission proceeded with a Request for Proposals (RFP). The objective of the Wildlife RFP was:

The NPC requires a consultant to research, compile and report on the wildlife resources and habitat values in Nunavut. The consultant will identify, collect and summarize written reports, data, maps and knowledge on the status and significance of wildlife resources; wildlife habitat values, issues and considerations for land use planning; existing and potential use of wildlife for commercial purposes; and research gaps and priorities. The NPC Request for Proposals: Wildlife Resource and Habitat Values Reference Number 2007/08-03_WL consultant will compile all existing spatial wildlife resource and habitat data in Nunavut into a spatial database and produce maps illustrating critical wildlife habitat. The NPC is committed to using the best available information for its planning processes and ensuring that its actions reflect the spirit and intent of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Contractors responding to this RFP must be familiar with the various information sources and wildlife research initiatives currently underway in the NSA and demonstrate an excellent understanding of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

We were advised April 15, 2008 by our consultant that, *"We [Jacques Whitford] have received notification from some agencies that the volume of data requested will require significant time to produce (i.e. Caribou data from Government of Nunavut Department of Environment). We will continue to work with them to ensure that we are not overly delayed in obtaining this data"*.

On June 9, 2008 the Commission contacted the Government of Nunavut, (GN) Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA) and Department of Environment (DOE) staff and informed them of the concerns raised by the consultant. The NPC was advised by EIA staff that the matter would be looked into. Following our request the GN directed the NPC consultant to follow up with the Government of the Northwest Territories to acquire the caribou data.

The NPC provided the Wildlife Report to the Government of Nunavut, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Water Board and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in November 2008. This information was made available on our website in April 2009.

We were first advised of GN DOE concerns with the data contained in our Wildlife Report on Jan 27, 2010 and that it must be removed from our website. At that time the NPC requested details in writing on the issues with the report. (I.e. What specifically is wrong with the report?) We also requested that the GN provide us with the correct data layers. On at least 3 occasions since the January teleconference the GN DOE has verbally advised us that they have concerns with the report. On each of those occasions we again requested a written explanation as

to the nature of the concerns and that the GN provide the correct data themes to replace the coverage's that are in error. During our Technical Workshop in Cambridge Bay on April 27, 2010 the GN DOE staff publically advised the NPC, Government of Canada, Designated Inuit Organizations and Industry participants that *"the data NPC is using is wrong."* The NPC needs to rectify the data issue(s) the GN is referring to and to inform our planning partners that the matter has been addressed.

To date the NPC has not received any details from your Department.

We presume that if the GN is advising our planning partners that the data provided by the consultant is incorrect or out-dated then the Department has the correct data for our use. Is this a correct assumption? For instance the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) advised us May 29, 2010 that:

"Based on recent discussions with the GN's wildlife staff, especially Mitch Campbell (867-857-2828), I understand that they now have even better information on the mainland herds, based on an excellent new spatial delineation tool being developed by John Nagy (867-873-3709), and on Peary caribou through the good work of Deb Jenkins (867-899-8876). Accordingly, WWF urges NPC to be in touch with these researchers to make sure you are integrating their more accurate and current caribou information regarding this important species into your PAM."

However prior to the WWF email on April 26, 2010 we were advised by GN DOE staff that we were using the wrong caribou coverage information for the Nunavut Land Use Plan. However we have not received *"... more accurate and current caribou information..."* to which we think the WWF is referring.

Many government departments invested a great deal of time and resources providing input into the development of the Wildlife Report. We are reluctant to remove the report from the website without first following due diligence. To do this we need to know the concerns and proposed solutions of the DOE. Please note we have advised Jacques Whitford that DOE has concerns with the report. They are awaiting the details we have requested.

In closing, the 11.4.1(a) document advises that the NPC will use the best available information. It also states that the *"...absence of information does not preclude the necessity to make land use planning decisions and to conclude the plan development process in a timely manner."* The GN DOE has verbally indicated that they have concerns with the Wildlife Report and that the report must be removed from our website. We respectfully request that the DOE advise us, in writing, as soon as possible on the errors contained in the Wildlife Report.

In addition, if the themes being used are incorrect then please also share with us the corrected wildlife themes. If the GN DOE has new data that is to be used in the Nunavut Land Use Plan we would appreciate receiving it. Once we have received the information requested we will follow up with Jacques Whitford accordingly.

I look forward to hearing back from you on the above matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Ehloak'.

Sharon Ehloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission

cc. Markus Weber, Deputy Minister, GN
Bernie MacIsaac, A/ Regional Director General, INAC
Joe Kunuk, Chief Executive Officer , NTI