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Kugluktuk
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Sharon Ehloak
Executive Director
Nunavut Planning Commission
Cambridge Bay, NU
X0B 0C0

August 22, 2010

Bathurst Inlet
Kingaok
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Via Email:

Re: Nunavut Planning Commission's working Draft of the Nunavut Land Use Plan

Dear Ms. Ehloak,

The Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) would like to thank the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) for the opportunity to comment on this draft land use plan. KIA has reviewed the maps and documents provided. Our comments follow.

Firstly, we would like to provide NPC with the KIA Board Directive regarding the Hiukitak River conservation area. Although the specific geographic extent remains to be determined and approved by the KIA Board, the Board Directive may be informative for the NPC and for users of the NLUP. The Directive is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) met at a duly constituted meeting in Kugluktuk, **March 28-30, 2006**, and
WHEREAS, Inuit from the Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo area asked the Nunavut Planning Commission to create a conservation area along the Hiukitak River as part of the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan, and
WHEREAS, KIA told the Nunavut Planning Commission that KIA would investigate this request further regarding a Conservation Area along the Hiukitak River, and
WHEREAS, KIA staff met with the Kitikmeot Inuit Elders at the Hiukitak River in August, 2005 to discuss conservation of the Hiukitak River, the elders ideas about conservation issues at the Hiukitak River, and the geographic location of the conservation area along the Hiukitak River, and
WHEREAS, KIA staff made best efforts to meet with the Community Beneficiary Committee from Cambridge Bay which includes Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo, and to informally meet with Community Beneficiary Committee members to get feedback on the conservation plan for the Hiukitak River. All feedback from the Community Beneficiary Committee members from Cambridge Bay was in support of the conservation area, and
WHEREAS, approximately half of the area suggested by elders for a Hiukitak River Conservation Area is on Surface Inuit Owned Land. The other half is on land owned by the Government of Canada, and
WHEREAS, a very small percentage of the proposed conservation area includes lands already leased for mineral exploration on crown land and Inuit Owned Land. KIA recognizes the importance of the mineral exploration industry to the Kitikmeot and will exempt any non-expired leases from any future conservation area;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association hereby approves of the concept of the Hiukitak River Conservation Area.



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However, more details will be required through consultation with Government of Canada, and then more consultation with Inuit of Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet before a more detailed plan can be approved by the KIA Board, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Inuit Owned Lands within 15 miles of the mouth of the Hiukitak River, up-river to and including the lakes of Kalgilik and Tahikafalok be closed to mineral exploration. Such closure will occur where current mineral claims on IOL do not exist, until a more detailed plan for a Hiukitak River Conservation Area is completed. Such a detailed plan will require consultation with the Government of Canada and further consultation with Inuit of Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet.

MOVED BY: Peter Kapolak
DISPOSITION

Seconded by: Teddy Apsaktaun
CARRIED BD /

Secondly, regarding NLUP zones classified as “Marine areas with higher biological diversity,” will proponents of this classification require that regulators screen projects more stringently in these zones? If so, clarification of and specific vetting processes are needed. Likewise, KIA would like clarification regarding Special Management Areas classified as “Important Bird Habitat” (i.e., Zone E). Will proponents of these Special Management Areas be seeking management restrictions above current legal requirements? If so, what restrictions are being considered?

Finally, throughout KIA’s involvement in the NLUP development process, KIA has maintained that Inuit should have full decision making authority on Inuit Owned Lands (IOL). As such, KIA does not wish to see any third-party provisions imposed on IOL that would restrict, in any way, Inuit Rights, decision-making abilities, and access to these Lands. In addition to KIA’s IOL interests, and understanding that the NLUP does not apply inside Municipal boundaries, Kitikmeot Inuit also have special considerations regarding the management of Federal land. If restrictive provisions are being considered for IOL or Federal land, NPC should encourage proponents of these Special Management Areas to specify their proposed provisions with NPC. Without this information, KIA is not in a position to comment further on our approval or disapproval of the NLUP.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Geoff Clark
Director, Dep’t of Lands, Environment & Resources
Kitikmeot Inuit Association

Cc: Paul Emingak, Acting Executive Director, KIA
Charlie Evalik, President, KIA
Legal Counsel