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Nunavunmi Parnaiyit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

Summary of Community Meetings on the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

NAUJAAT

January 31, 2020



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1. Introduction

1.1 Context

The Nunavut Planning Commission prepared a 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (2016 DNLUP) for public comment and consideration. Following the release of the 2016 DNLUP, the Commission received a significant amount of written comments and oral feedback during an in-person public hearing in Iqaluit in March 2017 for communities in the Qikiqtani region as well as transboundary Nunavik communities. In August 2019, the Commission received funding to complete consultations on the 2016 DNLUP by holding Information Sessions under rule 17 of the Commission's new Rules for Public Proceedings in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the Information Sessions was to hear the views of community residents on the 2016 DNLUP. This report summarizes feedback received during the Information Sessions held in Naujaat and is prepared under rule 15(5) of the *Rules for Public Proceedings*. The purpose of the report is to inform revisions to the 2016 DNLUP ensuring that the plan reflects the priorities and values of residents.

It is important to note that the information contained in this community report will be considered in conjunction with all other feedback when revising the 2016 DNLUP.

1.3 Methodology

Note: Due to weather, all events were rescheduled from January 28th to January 31st.

During the community visit the following events took place:

- **Elected Officials Meeting;** (10:00-11:00) Attended by Hamlet council
 - The Commission Chairperson and staff met with the Hamlet Council in Council chambers to provide a brief overview of the NPC's role and responsibility in Nunavut's regulatory system, process history, and preparation for the Information Sessions to be held in the afternoon and evening. An opportunity for questions and answers was provided, but no formal feedback on the 2016 DNLUP was provided or recorded during this meeting.
- **Afternoon Information Session;** (1:30 to 4:30) Attended by approximately 35 people, held 2 breakout groups.
 - **Posters;** Multi-lingual posters for each chapter of the Draft Plan were posted in the Community Hall for review.
 - **Presentation;** The Commission chairperson and staff provided an introductory presentation that included a brief overview of some background information, the Commission role and responsibility, role in Nunavut's regulatory system, process history, 2016 DNLUP chapter overview, and preparation for breakout groups including the types of questions that would be asked.
 - **Breakout Groups;** Held breakout group discussions to review community-specific maps (see Appendix A) and ask questions on priority issues (see section 2). Recorded oral

feedback and mapped suggested revisions and additions to geographic boundaries (see Appendix B)

- **Evening Information Session;** (6:30 to 9:30) Attended by approximately 35 people, held 1 breakout group.
 - Repeat same format as afternoon session

1.4 Public Awareness

Letters of invitation were sent to the Mayor and Council and HTO in advance of the NPC's visit to request a meeting with elected officials, advise of the public meetings and to encourage participation. Follow up phone calls were also made. Public notice of the meetings was provided in the following ways:

- **Nunatsiaq News;** notice of community meetings was posted in the newspaper in advance of the meetings.
- **Community radio;** notices were read by the hosts.
- **Community bulletin boards;** notices were posted on bulletin boards around the community in advance of the meetings.
- **Facebook;** information was posted on the NPC's Facebook page as well as on local community group pages in advance of the meetings.
- **nunavut.ca;** the schedule of community visits, the Draft Plan, and supporting information was available on the Commission's website.

1.5 Follow Up

This summary report will be provided to the Hamlet Council and HTO for review and posted on the NPC's Public Registry for consideration by all participants who may provide comments on it until February 28, 2020. The report and any comments on it will be considered by Commissioners when revising the 2016 DNLUP along with all other feedback that has been received.

2. Breakout Group Questions and Participant Responses

This section summarizes the notes and questions that were used by NPC staff during the breakout groups and well as the participant responses to each question.

1. Key Migratory Bird Habitat

There is a proposed migratory bird habitat area near Naujaat: Frozen Strait (Common Eider) and it is designated as Valued Ecosystem Component, which ensures that regulators will consider impacts to birds in this area. *There are parcels of Inuit Owned Land (surface and subsurface) within the area.*

a. Do you agree that this is key migratory bird habitat? Are the boundaries appropriate?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed the Frozen Strait area is important habitat for migratory birds and also identified additional areas.***

- Group 1 – Yes, agree with boundary for bird habitat. Comments: the area delineated has every mammal, waterfowl, and goose species – many migratory birds; Naujaat has the best lands and ocean for harvesting as there are all species; while we may not use all of the area all of the time it is still our territory; in summer there is lots of travel in the area and we know where the species are, same in winter; island (of Frozen Strait) are a nesting area but not as populated as before perhaps due to polar bears eating eggs; Lyon Inlet especially rich with species; eiders may be declining due to Polar bears eating eggs
- Group 2 – participants agreed the area is important habitat for eiders, and identified an additional area (Harbour Islands).
- Group 3 – The area in yellow is OK. Added additional bird area to map.

b. Do you support the recommended designation for this migratory bird habitat area?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed with identifying the areas as Valued Components without specific conditions.***

- Group 1– Yes, agree it is an important migratory bird habitat area. VEC designation is fine.
- Group 2 – Participants we ok with identifying the area as a VEC.
- Group 3 – Yes, agree it is an important migratory bird habitat area. Agree with VEC designation.

2. Polar Bear Denning

Polar bear denning areas have not been identified near your community. In other parts of Nunavut, the 2016 DNLUP identifies them as Valued Components.

a) Do you think it is appropriate to identify these areas as Valued Components so proponents and other regulatory authorities will be aware that polar bears may be denning in the area?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed it was appropriate to identify polar bear denning areas as Valued Components.***

- Group 1 – yes, agree with VEC designation
- Group 2 – Denning areas are an important habitat and agree with VEC designation
- Group 3 – yes, agree with VEC designation

b) Are there smaller more specific locations within the areas that have been identified where you think the plan should provide more detailed management? If so, what type of management do you think should be included in the plan?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants identified additional polar bear denning areas that should be identified as Valued Components.***

- Group 1– added a number of areas, some small and some large. No special management, VEC is fine. New areas added were around Lyon Inlet, some areas inland; Comments: Polar Bears go where the mountains area as they need lots of snow accumulation so dens can be made; there are many Polar Bears in region regardless of season, very numerous along the coasts so many people do not sleep in tents anymore; Polar Bears population seems to be increasing; within Ukkasiksalik NP Polar Bears population is healthy; there is a migration route from Lyon Inlet to Committee Bay – see tracks there regularly; also denning on the west shore of Southampton Island but did not mark on map; there is Polar Bears-human conflict in the region, especially at outpost camps – tents, cabins ... are ruined by bears
- Group 2 – participants identified additional coastal areas used for denning, but do not recommend any set rules for the areas (identify as Valued Component).
- Group 3 - No specific sites but identified more areas where Polar Bear den. Repeat what people said they already identified Polar Bears denning areas (Afternoon Group 1) and would not repeat, encouraged others to add their knowledge to the map. 2 people added new Polar Bears denning areas to map. Comment re: Elders provided information that Polar Bears require deep snow and pointed out the coast along Boothia but did not mark the area.

3. Walrus Haul-Outs

Walrus haul outs have been identified as Protected Areas where most development would be prohibited. The 2016 DNLUP proposes that ships would not be able to go within 5 km of the shore.

a) Are these locations accurate?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed with the identified walrus haul outs.***

- Group 1 – yes, locations on map are good. Also added additional areas; throughout Frozen Strait islands and along the mainland coast east and west of Naujaat; agree with prohibitions of PA zoning
- Group 2 – participants agreed with the identified areas and also added two more locations.
- Group 3 – more walrus now around the community; in past the walrus were further away from the community – now they are closer. Would like any additions provided in afternoon session group 1 be reproduced and other information and concerns be noted.

b) How far into the sea should the boundaries extend?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants recommend that ships stay 5 km away from walrus haul outs.***

- Group 1– 5km is okay; this will keep boats at a distance so they do not scare walrus. Photographers and videographers can be a problem. Any company that applies for a permit must obey the setback of 5km unless there is more that 50% Inuit ownership, then there can be an exemption with conditions.
- Group 2 – Participants generally agreed with 5km.
- Group 3 – Same as proposed by participants in afternoon group 1.

c) What are appropriate restrictions on different vessel sizes to approach these areas?

➤ ***Some Naujaat community participants noted that it could be dangerous for smaller vessels to approach walrus haul outs, but it could be done with an Inuk guide.***

- Group 1 – there is concern about ship traffic affecting walrus but no restrictions were recommended.
- Group 2 – Noted that it could be dangerous for smaller vessels, but it could be done with an Inuk guide.
- Group 3 - same as in Group 1

4. Community Areas of Interest: Duke of York Bay

This marine area has been identified by community residents as being important for wildlife and community use. The NLUP prevents oil and gas, linear infrastructure, and mining in the area, including the marine areas.

a) Do you agree with the boundaries of Duke of York Bay as presented?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed with the boundaries of Duke of York Bay and some participants recommended the area be extended.***

- Group 1– Yes, agree with restrictions. Comments: Naujaat people can travel to this area in 1 day. There is interest in future development: e.g. commercial fishing, a lodge with airstrip
- Group 2 – Participants agreed with the identified area and extended it to the north.
- Group 3 – Yes. Participants added: Duke of York PA boundary is like a claim by Coral Harbour for control over that area vs. Naujaat having control over it. Comment re: access road from Coral to Duke of York Bay. Future freedom of access to Duke of York by Naujaat will need to be considered.

b) Do you agree with the proposed rules for this area?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed with the proposed rules for Duke of York Bay and some recommended that large ships should not go into the area.***

- Group 1– Yes, agree as long as it will be possible for the envisioned development projects in the future
- Group 2 – Participants noted that vessels shouldn't enter the boundary included in the 2016 DNLUP, but would be ok in the proposed extension that was marked by the group.
- Group 3 – Yes. Agree with the protected areas restrictions.

5. Community Areas of Interest: Naujaat Terrestrial

The Naujaat HTO suggested most of the lands around Naujaat should be protected by the NLUP, but did not elaborate from what, why, or when

a) Can you provide insights on what policies are appropriate for this area?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants noted general concerns regarding the Naujaat terrestrial area and identified some specific char rivers that should be protected.***

- Group 1– people were particularly concerned about char rivers and marked a number of char rivers on the map that should have protection. There was general concern expressed about the long term conservation of all wildlife species that are present on the land and in the ocean
- Group 2 – participants noted that the area is used year round but did not provide specific recommendations for the area beyond what was discussed in previous topics.
- Group 3- Participants did not provide clear recommendations. Participants were concerned about noise – blasting, dust control, and other activities in the Naujaat area. Potential impacts on wildlife possible – both terrestrial and marine. Large concentration of land mammals – for the protection of these species and this is why this area has been identified. For future generations – wildlife and fish to harvest. People should have information about what is happening in regard to mining activities and impacts to wildlife and the land.

6. Marine Areas

There are no proposed limitations or restrictions on marine shipping around Naujaat. One submission from Naujaat HTO indicated a large area around Naujaat that should be subject to regulatory protections, but did not elaborate what they should be.

a) Should there be marine regulations for the areas around Naujaat? Where?

b) If so, what regulations would be appropriate?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants identified a number of specific values in the identified marine area and recommended a variety of ways for the NLUP to manage the areas.***

- Afternoon Group 1– For the delineated marine area: no oil and gas exploration or development – this includes Duke of York Bay
- Group 2 – Participants identified a number of specific areas within the larger marine area being discussed. Map 5: Narwhal habitat where there are concerns regarding the impacts from shipping. Ships should reduce speed or use a different route. There are lots of other marine mammals in the area as well included seals, bowhead, and beluga whales. Map 3: Walrus feeding areas used mainly in the summer but also in the winter. Note that walrus

aren't bothered much by small boats and there is no need to set firm rules - VEC is ok. Map 4: Sea ice in Repulse Bay near community is used by residents for hunting and also by caribou for migration. No icebreaking in this area. Map 9: Caribou Sea ice crossing. Should be no ice breaking in the area.

- Group 3 – Participants noted the delineated Naujaat Marine AOI is the main congregation of marine mammals and they need to be protected. Only allow shipping into Naujaat up Roes Welcome Sound and not from the east thru the Frozen Strait. Any ship anchored must give notice to Naujaat – and this should be a restriction for the area mapped. Ships can travel in the marine AOI but they need to inform Naujaat when they are there and what they are doing. Participants raised concerns about oil spills and protection of marine mammals. For the people that live here – need to consider the ice conditions and how the sea ice moves and blocks areas and sometimes access. If any oil/gas spill it would not be good. Participants did not express a desire to prohibit shipping, however, they would like to be informed before any ship comes.

7. Caribou Calving Areas

There is Caribou Calving habitat near your community (see map). The 2016 NLUP identified Caribou Calving Areas as sensitive habitat and recommends that these areas be zoned Protected Areas with year-round restrictions on mining, oil & gas exploration, roads, hydro-electrical infrastructures, and quarries. *There are parcels of Inuit Owned Land (surface and subsurface) within the areas and overlapping mineral rights.*

- a. Are the Caribou Calving areas mapped correctly? If No ... then ... describe what changes should be made.

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed with the identified calving areas and identified additional areas.***

- Group 1– generally okay but some areas missing; people added areas to the map that should be included. Comments: there have been changes in calving caribou distribution, they are now calving very close to Naujaat and this is new; It was noted that the calving area goes into the mineral claims area near Naujaat (diamond area) and that calving habitat must be taken into consideration and need to enforce the boundary; Need to keep in mind that calving areas are not stationary, they move over time and will continue to; grazing quality changes and they will shift to where the grazing is better; seem to be calving in a wider area now than many years ago;
- Group 2 – Participants noted that the herd doesn't migrate too much. Generally agreed with the boundaries and identified additional coastal locations near the community where caribou calve.
- Group 3 – Seems to be a greater distribution of caribou during calving time than as mapped. Participants identified another area along Roes Welcome Sound as a place where caribou calve. Potential for more change in calving areas. Vansittart Island – this is an area where they hunt caribou (this was mentioned in the afternoon too but not marked). It is both a hunting area and calving area. Marked on map.

b. Do you agree it is necessary to restrict certain uses and activities like mining, oil & gas, roads, hydro-electric infrastructure, and quarries in Caribou Calving areas?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants generally agreed that activities like mining, oil & gas, roads, hydro-electric infrastructure, and quarries should be restricted in caribou calving areas.***

- Group 1– yes agree that activities should be restricted seasonally – full protection. Need an organization formed that will monitor and protect caribou (like the BQCMB). We do not know enough about Naujaat caribou migration routes, seasonal habitats, and herd affiliations. They feel these are significant and important knowledge gaps. Which caribou go up to the Boothia and which go up to the Melville Peninsula. Where do they winter? Caribou appear to move both NW and S but where do they end up? Are the herd mixing? Need a caribou population survey to update the estimate. No research in this region for some time. Concern about aircraft flying low over the caribou and that this should be controlled. People feel collaring caribou is okay when it is necessary to answer important questions (like those posed).
- Group 2 – Participants generally recommend activities should be restricted year round. Some participants are concerned about having roads in calving and post-calving areas, some are not.
- Group 3 - Same as in afternoon group 1. No activities within the boundary of calving and post calving areas. Confirm that this should also apply to the new areas added.

c. Are there other uses or activities that should be restricted?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants recommend that there should be height restrictions for aircraft during calving and post-calving and noted concerns with blasting.***

- Group 1 – aircraft minimum heights during calving and post calving.
- Group 2 – blasting should not happen in summer. It can also disturb marine wildlife if close to the shore and creates dust.
- Group 3 – Same as in the Group 1

d. If restrictions on uses or activities occur, should they be year-round or seasonal? If seasonal, what time frame would you recommend?

➤ ***Some Naujaat community participants recommend seasonal restrictions and some recommend year-round restrictions for caribou calving areas.***

- Group 1 – seasonal: June, July, August
- Group 2 – year round
- Group 3 – A participant noted that earlier today people recommended seasonal – June, July, and August. This is for protection of calves while they are becoming stronger and weaned.

8. Caribou Post Calving Areas

There is Caribou Post-Calving habitat near your community (see map...*note the many outliers of this polygon type*). The 2016 DNLUP identified Caribou Post-Calving Areas as sensitive habitat and recommends that these areas be zoned Protected Areas with year-round restrictions on mining, oil & gas exploration, roads, hydro-electrical infrastructures, and quarries. *There are parcels of Inuit Owned Land (surface and subsurface) within the areas and overlapping mineral rights.*

- a. Are the Caribou Post-Calving areas mapped correctly? If No ... then ... describe what changes should be made.

➤ ***Naujaat community participants agreed with the identified post-calving areas and identified an additional area.***

- Group 1 – generally ok and identified an additional area
- Group 2 – agreed with boundaries.
- Group 3 – agreed with boundaries.

- b. Do you agree it is necessary to restrict certain uses and activities like mining, oil & gas, roads, hydro-electric infrastructure, and quarries in Caribou Post-Calving areas?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants generally agreed that activities like mining, oil & gas, roads, hydro-electric infrastructure, and quarries should be restricted in caribou post-calving areas.***

- Group 1– same as calving
- Group 2 – same as calving
- Group 3- same as calving areas

- c. Are there other uses or activities that should be restricted?

➤ ***Naujaat community participants recommend that there should be height restrictions for aircraft during calving and post-calving and noted concerns with blasting.***

- Group 1– same as calving
- Group 2 – same as calving
- Group 3- None identified

- d. If restrictions on uses or activities occur, should they be year-round or seasonal? If seasonal, what time frame would you recommend?

➤ ***Some Naujaat community participants recommend seasonal restrictions and some recommend year-round restrictions for caribou post-calving areas.***

- Group 1 – same as calving areas
- Group 2 – same as calving areas

- Group 3- Same as in calving areas

9. Final wrap up Question

Are there other areas important to your community that the Nunavut land use plan should identify and designate for use? Identify the area, the values and sensitivity? Importance of area, and what types of activities should be restricted and when the restrictions should be in place.

➤ ***Naujaat community participants identified an important caribou migration area near the community.***

- Group 1– no additional areas added
- Group 2 – Participants identified an important caribou migration area near the community.
- Group 3 – None

Appendix A: Breakout Group Reference Maps

Appendix B: Breakout Group Map Revisions

- Map 1: Additional Migratory Bird Habitat
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