

# Background



## What is Land Use Planning?

Land use plans make choices about how land, water, and resources are used. Land use planning usually balances conservation and development to make sure that important ecological and cultural values are protected while also supporting economic development to meet other community goals.

## What does the SLUPB do?

It is the SLUPB's job to create and implement the Sahtu Land Use Plan. Our plan outlines what land uses are allowed in the Sahtu Settlement Area (SSA), where exactly they are allowed, and under what conditions the land use can happen. This involves working with the Sahtu communities, planning partners (like the Sahtu Land and Water Board and other Sahtu organizations), and our approving parties (SSI, GNWT, and Canada).



## Who is the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB)?

The SLUPB is an institution of public government that works to protect and promote the current and future well-being of the residents and communities of the Sahtu settlement area while also having regard to the interests of all Canadians. This is done through the Sahtu Land Use Plan. The **SLUPB** was given the **authority** to **develop** the **Sahtu Land Use Plan** by the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (SDMCLCA)* and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*.

Heather Bourassa, Chair	(Nominated by SLUPB Members)
Edna Tobac	(GNWT Nominee)
Bob Overvold	(Canada Nominee)
Rick Hardy	(SSI Nominee)
Dakota Erutse	(SSI Nominee)

All of our Board members are appointed by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs for three year terms.

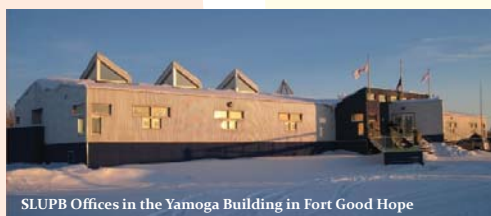
The SLUPB has **three staff members** who help carry-out the day-to-day work of the Board.

## How is the Plan Approved?

Once the SLUPB adopts the Plan, the Plan needs to be approved by the three approving parties in this order:



Once Canada approves the plan, any proposed land use activities must conform to the Land Use Plan (even uses that are proposed by the Government!).



SLUPB Offices in the Yamoga Building in Fort Good Hope

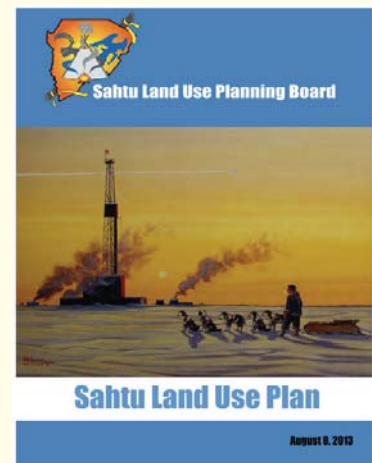
## History of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

The Board was formally **established** in **1998** when **Part 2** of the *MVRMA* came into force. Over the years, the Board has worked with over 700 community members, governments, industry, and other stakeholders to:

1. **Create a vision** for the Sahtu Settlement Area;
2. **Collect information** about land, resources, and people of the Settlement Area; and
3. **Develop a land use plan** that provides for the conservation, development and use of land, waters and other resources.

We had 4 drafts of the plan from 2002 to 2010.

The **current plan** was **approved** on **August 8, 2013**.



# Background



## Our Work to Date

Some of the things we are most proud of include:

- **2 Conformity Determinations (1 still ongoing)**– Two different parties put in applications to see whether their proposed land use conformed to our land use plan. The Board made decisions based on the requirements in the SLUP.
- **Nááts'ihch'oh Amendment**– Because Nááts'ihch'oh was finalized after the land use plan was approved, some adjustments to the zoning around the park were needed. The changes have been adopted by the SLUPB and we are now waiting for approval from the approving parties;
- **Sahtu Land Use Plan Assessment Report (2017)**– We did an assessment to see how well the Sahtu Land Use Plan is working;
- **Work in preparation for 5-Year Review**, including review of how zones are defined and mapped. This was reviewed by a consultant to make sure we got it right.

We have also faced some challenges in our work. Here is an example:

- **Lack of funding for the SLUPB**– Costs to operate and travel within the Sahtú are high and our funding doesn't always reflect that. This makes it difficult to engage our planning partners and with the Sahtú communities as much as we would like.

We continue to work to build on our successes and address our challenges.



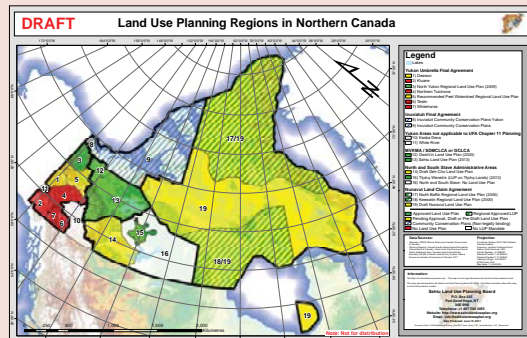
SLUPB Community Meeting in Tulita (2016)

## SLUP Fast Facts

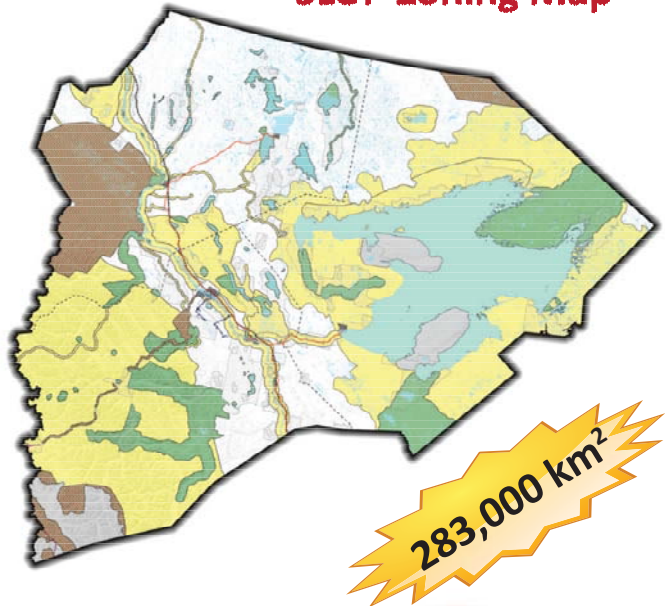
How is land protected in the SLUP?

- **22%** Conservation;
- **47%** Special Management;
- **31%** General Use.

It took **15 years** to complete the approved SLUP. It is one of the few completed land use plans in the North, as seen in the map below.

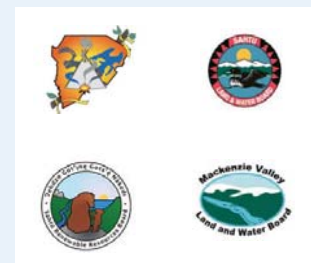


## SLUP Zoning Map



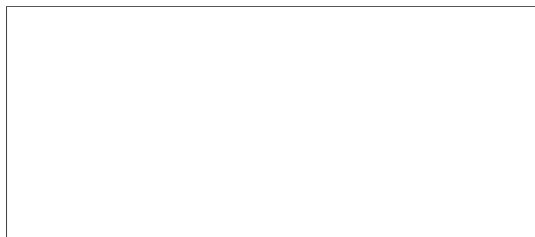
## SLUPB and the Co-Management System.

- The **SLUPB** is responsible for the **bigger picture vision** as to how land be used in the Sahtú Settlement Area.
- The **SLWB** (Sahtu Land & Water Board) and **MVLWB** (Mackenzie Valley Land & Water Board) are responsible for issuing **land use permits and water licences**, which must conform with the Sahtu Land Use Plan.
- The **SRRB** (Sahtu Renewable Resources Board) is responsible for wildlife management.





# Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP) Zones Explained



## General Use Zone (GUZ)

- **This zone has the least protection;**
- All land uses are allowed except for bulk water removal;
- Any development in this zone has to follow the Conformity Requirements in the SLUP.



## Special Management Zone (SMZ)

- **This zone protects special values that have been identified;**
- All land uses are allowed except for bulk water removal;
- Any development in this zone has to follow the Conformity Requirements **and** Special Management Conformity Requirements in the SLUP.



## Conservation Zone (CZ)

- **This zone has the most protection;**
- Significant traditional, cultural, heritage, and ecological areas are protected;
- Specified land uses are prohibited (e.g. mine not grandfathered);
- Any development in this zone has to follow the Conformity Requirements **and** Special Management Conformity Requirements in the SLUP.



## Proposed Conservation Initiative (PCI)

- This is an **area where formal legislated protection is being pursued;**
- This zone has the same status as a Conservation Zone (CZ) until it is protected under other legislation, and so the same Conformity Requirements apply.



## Established Protected Area (EPA)

- This is an area where **legislated protected areas are fully established;**
- The **SLUP no longer applies to these areas**, as they are managed according to their own legislation and management plans.





# What are Conformity Requirements (CRs)?

**Conformity Requirements** consist of **land use zones** and **conditions for development**. There are different conditions for development that apply to the different zone types. These conditions are called Conformity Requirements (CRs). All new activities occurring anywhere in the Sahtu Settlement Area are required to conform to (follow) these conditions.

General conditions apply to all zone types. These include requirements like necessary community engagement, use of traditional knowledge, use of up to date information on fish and wildlife, and mandatory benefits to the community if development were to happen.

Special Management Conditions apply to SMZs, CZs, and PCIs. Special Management Conformity Requirements may be different between special management zones depending on what needs to be protected. Some of the Special Management CRs are only applied to specified zones.

**All proponents** (someone who wants to develop on the land) **must demonstrate that they have met the CRs before an application to work on the land or use the water can be granted. The CRs are mandatory.**

If a proponent wants to develop on the land, they would first look at the zoning map and figure out which zone they are in. This will tell them whether or not development is allowed and what CRs they have to follow.



# 5-Year Review of the SLUP



## What is the 5-Year Review?

Every five years the Board has the opportunity to review the Sahtu Land Use Plan and make any needed changes. This involves **working with the Approving Parties** (SSI, GNWT, Canada), **communities**, and **other planning partners** to determine if or what changes (or amendments) are required to the Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP).

## Why do the 5-Year Review?

This review will help make sure that the Sahtu Land Use Plan reflects the most up-to-date information and values of the communities. It is also a time to revisit the Plan if it is achieving the vision and goals of the individual zones, and to see if there are any things that need to be clarified.

## What is the Process for the 5-Year Review?



In January 2018, the SLUPB prepared a review of the Plan, which was released and distributed for public comment. It outlined what the Board had learnt in the first 5 years, and recommendations for what to include in the amendments.

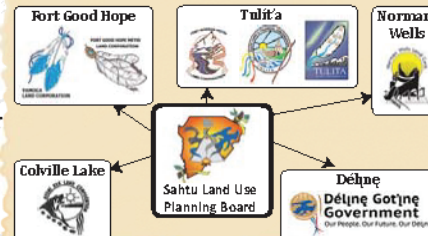
In this report, the SLUPB determined that amendments to the Sahtu Land Use Plan are needed.

The public comment period ran until July 27, 2018. A total of 9 comments from 8 parties were received.

Comments were reviewed by the SLUPB and posted to the Registry: <https://sahtulanduseplan.org/registry/category/5-year-slua-review>



### Community Tour and Meetings With Leadership



### Tripartite Meeting to Decide on Scope of the 5-Year Review



### Sahtu Land Use Plan Amendments

Based on what is decided at the tripartite meeting, the SLUPB will get started on preparing the necessary amendments to the Plan.

The suggested amendments would be done through:

- Public comment process;
- Possible creation of a SLUP Working Group;
- Working with the 3 Approving Parties;
- Engagement with the Sahtu communities.

## Possible Direction of the 5-Year Review

### SLUPB Review

Based on the SLUPB's own review of the Plan, here is what we have proposed.

#### Necessary Changes:

- Review the zone descriptions to better define the boundaries;
- Improve the scale of the zoning maps to 1:50,000;
- Fix typos, errors, and mapping and zone description errors in the SLUP;
- Review legislative and regulatory changes since 2013 and update the SLUP.

#### Other Potential Changes:

- Revisit the SLUP's Vision and Goals;
- Review and update the Implementation Guide;
- Update Proposed Conservation Initiatives as needed;
- Revisit the linkage between land use planning and climate change.

### Public Comments

In the public comment period, we received multiple views on many different issues based on our original review. Here are some of the main themes we heard:

- Community engagement is necessary to complete the 5-year review.
- Indigenous Protected Areas (like the Tsá Tué Biosphere Reserve) are being established and this needs to be considered in the SLUP.
- The way that self-governing communities are recognized in the Sahtu land use planning process needs to be clarified.
- The Vision, Actions, and Recommendations in the SLUP need to be revisited.
- Clarify roles of the planning partners, Board staff, approving parties in implementation of the Plan.
- Proper resourcing of SLUPB, approving parties, and Sahtu communities is needed.
- Improve the Plan's clarity, readability, and accuracy (clarify zone descriptions and some Conformity Requirements, refine the implementation guide, etc.)
- Define a process for monitoring implementation of the plan. Is the Plan achieving its goals?

#### We received public comments from the following groups:

- Explor
- Délı̨ne Got'ı̨ne Government
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Land and Water Boards (Sahtu, Mackenzie Valley, Gwich'in, Wek'èezhii)
- NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines
- Ayoni Keh Land Corporation / Behdzi Ahda First Nation
- Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

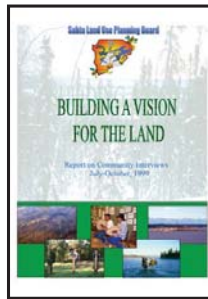
Based on our review of the SLUP, the public comments received, and community engagement (like this meeting), the SLUPB and Approving Parties will decide on what will be included in the amendments to the Plan.

# Sahtu Land Use Plan Vision



The **Sahtu Land Use Plan's (SLUP's) Vision** was guided by the SLUPB's own visioning work, "Building a Vision for the Land" report, and aspects from the *Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan (GBLWMP)*.

The "**Building a Vision for the Land**" report from 2000 compiled input from **Community Members**, who were asked to identify their **vision** for the land, **5 years** and **100 years** in the future.



The vision and goals developed as part of the ***Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan (GBLWMP)*** were done between 2002 and 2005 by a Working Group established to develop a management plan for the Great Bear Lake watershed, with extensive participation from Délı̨nę.



Our Vision is long and can be hard to remember. During the public comment period, we received feedback that we need to make it shorter, more simple, and more related to our work at the SLUPB. What do you think? **Put a dot sticker into the box that you agree with.**

**I like it!  
Keep it the way it is.**

**Keep the ideas, but  
shorten how it's written.**

**We need a whole new  
vision.**

**Do you have any other feedback to share about the vision?  
What should we add/keep/take out?**

**Write your answer on a sticky note and stick it to one of the boxes above.**

# Sahtu Land Use Plan Vision



## Here is the SLUP's current Vision:

“The ecological integrity of the region is maintained. The land, water and natural resources on which people depend are clean, healthy and abundant. There is a balance of industrial development and vast wilderness areas, a model of development hand in hand with environmental protection. Conservation Zones and legislated protected areas protect the most important places and values for future generations, while careful management allows sustainable development to proceed in all other areas.

The region has cultural integrity. People use the land as they always have for hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, spiritual renewal and healing. Elders are respected and play a central role in passing down the language, traditional skills, knowledge, stories and importance of the land to community leaders and the youth, strengthening cultural and spiritual connections to the land. Elders work with teachers to teach both traditional and modern skills in schools, which equip the youth to thrive and adapt in a changing environment.

Communities have sufficient authority, capacity and involvement in managing and monitoring land use to work in true partnership with land and resource managers, co-management Boards, and regulators. Together, they provide a clear, efficient regulatory system that promotes sustainable development. Land use activities are designed, regulated and implemented with consideration for the specific values and characteristics of the people and the region. Land use decisions respect and integrate Sahtu Dene and Metis traditional laws, beliefs and management practices with scientific and regulatory frameworks. There is trust and respect amongst all participants in land and resource management.

Long-term economic planning has resulted in strong renewable and non-renewable industries, providing economic self-sufficiency and stability, and employment diversity for the region. Residents are able to find work in their communities and on the land. Good access and infrastructure in the region reduces the cost of power, goods and services. A strong emphasis on training has created a skilled workforce to maximize employment and business opportunities.”



# General Feedback



**Is there anything you would like to share with us?** For example, what can the SLUPB do better, are there things you would like to see incorporated into the Plan, ways the SLUPB should be engaging with your community... or anything else.

**Please write your comment on a sticky note and post it in the box below.**

# Our Values



**When you think about Land Use Planning, what is most important to you?**

**Please write your comment on a sticky note and post it in the box below.**