



Grand Chief Gladys Norwegian
Dehcho First Nations
P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0N0

Date: July 19, 2019

Dear Grand Chief Norwegian,

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 2019, regarding consultation on the proposed Zone 41 Amendment to the Sahtu Land Use Plan. The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring that the concerns of the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) are considered.

Please note that opportunities have been made available to you to express your concerns to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada during the amendment process. The Government of Canada conducted a joint consultation with the GNWT and a letter was sent (via email) to the DFN on March 7, 2019 soliciting your input on or before April 22, 2019. A letter was then sent to the DFN on May 8, 2019 advising DFN of the intention to proceed with approval of the proposed Zone 41 Amendment to the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

The Zone 41 amendment has been approved by the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, as well as by the GNWT. At this point, the Government of Canada would like to engage in further discussions with the DFN to better understand your concerns. Specifically, the Government of Canada requires more information concerning the impact of the plan amendment to the DFN's Section 35 rights:

- In as much detail as possible, can you indicate if any adverse impacts are anticipated with regard to the established or asserted Section 35 rights of the Dehcho First Nations? Please include the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts could be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help the Government of Canada understand those impacts.
- Please demonstrate why the proposed Special Management Zone designation and the various Conformity Requirements relating to Zone 41 are inadequate in addressing the Dehcho First Nations' concerns.

Your letter included concerns about Conformity Requirement (CR) #20 being insufficient to prevent adverse impacts to the remaining areas of Zone 41 that were excluded from Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve. I would like to take this opportunity to note that these excluded areas (proposed as Special Management Zones) must conform to CR #20 and must also adhere to CRs #2-13, which were developed to address concerns regarding important social, cultural and environmental values. For example, any activities that take place in Special Management Zones must adhere to CR #7 Fish and Wildlife, and take all reasonable steps to minimize impacts to wildlife, their habitat, migration patterns, and important community harvesting areas. A list of, and descriptions

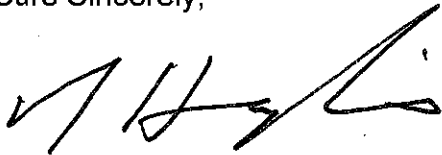


for, all Conformity Requirements can be found in the Implementation Guide for the Sahtu Land Use Plan. Further, any proponents proposing developments that require a water licence and/or land use permit would be subject to the regulatory regime as set out in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, and to engagement regarding the impacts of those developments.

To ensure thoughtful and efficient participation, the Government of Canada is requesting a response from the Dehcho First Nations regarding the items above by August 30, 2019. We kindly ask that the Dehcho First Nations respond in a timely manner, as the consultation window for this amendment closed April 22, 2019. After the Government of Canada receives your response, a discussion regarding next steps can occur.

Should you have any questions, please contact Janice Traynor, Policy Coordinator, Sustainable Development, at Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada by phone: 613-894-5842 or email: Janice.Traynor2@canada.ca.

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Hopkins

c.c.:

Willard Hagen
Deputy Minister
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories

Heather Bourassa
Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Charles McNeely
Chairperson
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated