



NOV 15 2018

Ms. Heather Bourassa
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
P.O. BOX 235
FORT GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

BY EMAIL

Dear Ms. Bourassa:

**ADVANCING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
TS'UDE NILINE TU'EYETA (RAMPARTS RIVER AND WETLANDS)**

I am writing to inform you that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is entering into negotiations with K'asho Got'ine community Council, Yamoga Land Corporation, and Fort Good Hope Métis Local #54 Land Corporation for the establishment of Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands). Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta is identified in the Sahtu Land Use Plan ('the Plan') as a proposed conservation initiative (Zone 65).

By way of background, Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta was being advanced as a National Wildlife Area under the *Canada Wildlife Act*, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment and Climate Change Canada). A multi-stakeholder working group oversaw cultural, ecological and economic assessments of the area and finalized a recommendations report in 2012. One recommendation from the report was a reduced boundary - 4,651 km² smaller than Zone 65.

The GNWT, K'asho Got'ine Community Council, Yamoga Land Corporation, and Fort Good Hope Métis Local #54 Land Corporation are now proposing to use territorial legislation for establishment, specifically the proposed *Protected Areas Act*. Section 2.2 of the Plan, *Application of the Plan to Protected Areas*, describes an approach to rezoning in the event of protected areas establishment. We believe additional dialogue is needed to ensure a common understanding of how this will work with the proposed territorial *Protected Areas Act*.

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The GNWT has identified that the establishment of Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta must align with the Sahtu Land Use Plan and your Board's processes. The GNWT recognizes and respects the authority and responsibilities of the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, and we look forward to working together with you and the other approving parties on aligning the establishment of Ts'ude niline Tu'eyeta to ensure conformity with the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Sincerely,



Terry Hall
Director, Land Use and Sustainability
Lands

c. Ms. Orlena Modeste
Executive Director
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Ms. Kim Pawley
Manager, Environmental Assessment
Land Use Planning and Conservation
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Ms. Michelle Swallow
A/Director Conservation Monitoring
Government of the Northwest Territories