



Melanie Harding
Executive Director
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
P.O. Box 235
Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0

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Date: September 10, 2019

Dear Ms. Harding,

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNAC) with the Government of Canada would like to provide the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board with an update regarding the amendments to Zone 41 (Nááts'jhc'h'oh) of the Sahtu Land Use Plan (the Plan).

As per section 43 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. (SSI) and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) must approve the amendment before the Government of Canada. The SSI approved the amendment on February 28, 2019, and the GNWT's approval followed June 7, 2019. Prior to the Minister of CIRNAC making her decision with respect to approval, CIRNAC received a letter from the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) expressing concern that the Aboriginal and Treaty rights and interests of its members would be adversely affected by the proposed changes to the Plan. CIRNAC responded to the DFN with additional information about the conditions that would apply in Zone 41 and asking for further clarity on the impacts to DFN's rights and interests.

CIRNAC asked that the DFN respond by August 30, 2019 and unfortunately no reply has been received. At this time, CIRNAC will move forward with its decision-making process. Due to the upcoming federal election, a decision by the Minister may only occur after the election.

Should you have any questions, please contact Janice Traynor, Policy Coordinator, Sustainable Development, at CIRNAC by phone: 613-894-5842 or email: Janice.Traynor2@canada.ca.

Yours Sincerely,

Mark Hopkins