



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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August 28, 2009

To: Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Regional Director General, INAC
Gary Bohnet, Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Chairperson, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated

Re: Meeting on Integration of Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan & Sahtu Land Use Plan

Dear Sir and Madames,

On June 22, 2009 the SLUPB wrote to you requesting your participation in a meeting to discuss the integration of the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan (GBLWMP) and the Sahtu Land Use Plan on August 10-12. The Board did not receive a formal response to this request.

In late July, our staff was contacted by GNWT and INAC staff and told that only operational staff would be attending. During this time, comments on Draft 2 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan were received and neither the GNWT nor INAC comments contained a detailed review of the GBLWMP as the Board had requested. The meeting was postponed as a result of the lack of comments and senior level participation.

As mentioned previously, Deline has requested that the Board immediately forward the GBLWMP for approval. Based on its own assessment and informal concerns we have heard, the Board does not believe this document is ready for approval as written. Deline has asked for detailed comments on the issues with the document so that these may be addressed and the Plan approved. It is for this reason that the Board specifically requested that INAC and the GNWT complete a detailed review of the GBLWMP and prepare its own comments on the matter, so that we may have an open discussion about the status of this document with the approving parties.

I am again requesting your presence at a meeting in Deline on October 22-23 to discuss the integration of the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan (GBLWMP) and the Sahtu Land Use Plan. This is to be a meeting between senior level decision-makers, not a technical working group. In order for this meeting to be effective, we respectfully request that you ask your departments to complete a review of the GBLWMP and that you come prepared to discuss your comments with Deline and the Board so that we may move forward together with a common understanding.



To summarize, the purpose of the meeting is to discuss:

- 1) The feasibility of forwarding the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan forward for approval in advance of the rest of the Sahtu Land Use Plan;
- 2) Comments/issues on the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan;
- 3) Options and next steps for integrating the two plans; and
- 4) The resources required to complete revisions to the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan.

Please respond to Edna Tobac at (867) 598-2055 or ed_slupb@airware.ca by September 14th to confirm your availability and participation in this meeting. A more formal agenda will be prepared and forwarded to you once your availability is confirmed. All Parties will be responsible for their own travel and meeting costs.

Respectfully,

Judith Wright-Bird
Chairperson
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

CC: Peter Menacho, President, Deline Land Corporation
Chief Raymond Tutcho, Deline Land Corporation
Russell Kenny, President, Deline Renewable Resources Council