



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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SLUPB Closing Comments and Next Steps

We'd like to thank everyone for coming and sharing your knowledge and perspectives with us. While some issues remain for some of the CRs, others tested well against the applications. We recognize that further work is required to refine the "tests" or implementation criteria and we will work on that. We've had productive discussions and received some excellent suggestions to help us carry out that work.

As stated at the opening, the Board will produce transcripts of this workshop, which are expected to be ready in a few weeks. Once done they will be posted to the Board's website at www.sahtulanduseplan.org. We will send out a notification to our distribution list when they are available. All other workshop materials have already been posted.

We've introduced a lot of new material for this workshop, including proposed revisions for CRs, conformity determinations, and implementation guidance. We recognize that participants may not have had the opportunity to express all of their comments on these elements given the time constraints. **If you have significant comments that you did not have the opportunity to present here, the Board will accept additional written comments until February 24th.** There is no need to repeat comments made at this workshop already as we will review the workshop transcripts carefully and give due consideration to the suggestions and perspectives presented. We recognize this is not a lot of time to prepare comments, but the Board is also facing tight deadlines to complete the Plan.

The Board will begin preparing a final discussion document outlining the Board's approach to key plan issues for discussion with senior representatives of the approving parties in April. The intent of this meeting is to reach agreement on these issues before we begin writing, to ensure the Final Draft is generally acceptable and will not face significant obstacles during Plan approval.

Following that meeting, the Board will carry out final revisions to the Plan. We hope to have those completed by late spring or early summer. Once complete, the Board will adopt the "Final Draft Plan" and formally submit it to the Parties for approval. As per S. 43 of the MVRMA, SSI must approve the Plan first. Following their approval, the Minister of ENR approves the Plan, followed by the Minister of AANDC. The Plan takes legal effect on the day it is signed by the Minister of AANDC. There is no timeframe specified for the approval process. We hope to get SSI's approval at their Annual Assembly this August.

To facilitate approval, the Board will carry out information sessions with the communities and governments following Plan submission, to explain the Final Draft Plan and answer questions.

We are very near completion of the Sahtu Land Use Plan, which has been over 15 years in the making. We acknowledge and commend the incredible investment of time, money and resources that all of the participants have contributed to this process over this lengthy period, and especially these last few years. We hope that through your involvement, you see this as your plan. The Board holds the pen, but the vision, goals and direction come from the people living and working in the Sahtu Settlement Area. This is your plan.

Mahsi!
