



GWICH'IN LAND USE PLANNING BOARD

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April 17, 2018

Bobbie Jo Greenland-Morgan, Grand Chief
Gwich'in Tribal Council

Louis Sebert, Minister
Department of Lands
Government of the Northwest Territories

Caroline Bennet, Minister
Indigenous and Northern Affairs
Government of Canada

RE: Final Review and Approval of the Revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan

Dear Plan Signatories,

The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board respectfully submit the revised ***Nan Geenjit Gwitr'it T'agwàa'in / Working for the Land - Gwich'in Land Use Plan*** for one last review. A formal request to approve will come in the near future. After multiple factors such as capacity issues, changes in staff and leadership, etc., affecting the Board and signatories have resulted in multiple delays, the Board is anxious to complete this review.

Included with this letter is a supporting document provide an understanding of the changes requested by signatories and the Board's reasoning for the edits that have been made. The bulk of the comments received on the Jan 2015 draft were from the territorial and federal governments. The *Combined Response to Signatory Comments on January 2015 Draft Revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan* is a compilation of these two submissions with the Planning Board's response.

As it likely has been some time since the parties have looked at the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, the planning Board proposes the following process:

- Signatories do a precursory review and assessment of the documents to identify areas that will want to discuss and/or need time for further assessment.
- Signatories provide the Planning Board with an estimate of time for their full final review, and any preferences for process by **May 11, 2018**
- A conference call at the staff level could be set for the week of May 14th to discuss and outline a process that accommodates all parties.

- Planning Board will then publicly report the remaining process and timelines that will result in a finalised draft from the input from signatories.
- After agreement has been reached on a finalised draft of the revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan, The Planning Board will send a formal letter requesting approval of the revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan. As per MVRMA section 43, this begins the sequential approval by Gwich'in Tribal Council, the government of the Northwest Territories, and the department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

A note to reviewers:

- a) If possible, avoid the introduction of any new issues. In order to expedite the approval of the Plan, the Board would like to put any new issues into the priority list for the next Plan review.
- b) To allow the signatories to focus on the policy and zoning aspects of the plan, the Board will do a thorough review of housekeeping edits that will be corrected before the Plan goes to final print. For example, some page references within the document still need to be updated; given the possibility of minor changes that could affect the pagination, this was not done at this time. Items such as updating reference to the Canadian Energy Regulator from the National Energy Board, might be done if the legislation to enact the proposed change is passed before the Plan document goes to print. Anticipatory edits will not be made to avoid inconsistencies with any final legislation.

The Board's land use planner, Susan McKenzie will be available to answer any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,



Bob Simpson
Chair

ATTACHEMENTS: (2 hardcopies copies of each, plus electronic)

April 2018 Draft Revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan

Combined Response to Signatory Comments on January 2015 Draft Revised Gwich'in Land Use Plan

Copied to:

Steven Charlie, Director, Lands and Resources, Gwich'in Tribal Council

Terry Hall, Director, Land Use and Sustainability, Lands, Government of the Northwest Territories

Janice Traynor, Senior Environmental Policy Analyst, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada