



Hon. Dan Vandal, PC, MP
Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Northern
Affairs Canada
Government of Canada
25 Eddy Street, 7th Floor.
Gatineau, QC
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Hon. Joanna Quassa
Minister of Environment
Government of Nunavut
P.O Box 1000 Station 200
Iqaluit, Nunavut
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Aluki Kotierk
President, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
P.O Box 638
Iqaluit, Nunavut
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Dear Minister Vandal, Minister Quassa, and President Kotierk:

Re: Submission of the 2023 Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan

On behalf of the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC or Commission), I am pleased to present to you the 2023 Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan (RNLUP) for consideration and approval. The 2023 RNLUP has been developed pursuant to the *Nunavut Agreement* and *Nunavut Project Planning and Assessment Act* and is the result of a comprehensive consultation process and thorough review of feedback and comments received, both orally and in written formats, following the release of the 2021 DNLUP and during the five (5) regional public hearings held in September to November 2022.

The Commission is proud to present this first-generation plan for approval which we believe will serve as a valuable tool to guide land use in the Nunavut Settlement Area. The RNLUP is now available on the NPC public registry at: <http://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry.php> and is supported by external documents, which are also available on the Commission's website.

- **Maps:** Several maps are appended to the RNLUP to provide spatial information about, existing nonrenewable resources (Appendix A), Land Use Designations (Map A) and Valued Components of Nunavut (Map B). More practical GIS versions of these maps are also available on the NPC public registry.
- **Public Hearing Report:** This document provides an overview of the important information presented to the Commission during the five regional public hearings that took place from September to November 2022. It also highlights the key issues discussed during the hearings. The Commission carefully reviewed all the evidence presented, including the final written submissions of participants. Where necessary, feedback was incorporated, and revisions were made as reflected in the RNLUP.
- **Consultation Record:** a detailed record of consultation undertaken since 2007 in the development of the NLUP.

- The Commission is finalizing revisions to the complementary **Options and Recommendations Document** to be shared with the approving parties and the public as soon as possible: The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive overview of the policies and land use designations recommended in the Plan. It aims to highlight the reasoning behind these recommendations, and the participant submissions that were taken into consideration by the Commission. The document serves as a valuable resource for Planning Partners and members of the public who wish to have a deeper understanding of the recommended Plan.

The RNLUP has undergone significant improvements in both structure and content based on the valuable feedback received from participants. These changes have resulted in a clearer, more consistent, and balanced Recommended Nunavut Land Use Plan. To facilitate your review, the Commission would like to draw your attention to some of the key changes in the 2023 RNLUP:

- 1. Distinct approach to Inuit Owned Lands:** The right of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) and the Regional Inuit Associations (RIAs) to manage Inuit Owned Lands on behalf of Nunavut Inuit is a critical component of the Nunavut Agreement and fundamental to Inuit self-determination and economic self-sufficiency which is reflected in the Plan. The RNLUP provides a distinct approach to Inuit Owned Lands as described in sections 1.4.6.1 and 6.2.3 that modifies underlying Limited Use designations to allow normally prohibited uses to proceed when the use is supported by the appropriate Designated Inuit Association with land ownership and management rights.
- 2. Revisions to Land Use Designations:** The 2023 RNLUP aims to balance economic development and environmental conservation while ensuring the protection of Inuit harvesting rights, mineral development, and the rights of NTI and RIAs to manage Inuit Owned Lands. The table provides a summary of the land use designation changes in 2023 compared to previous versions of the DNLUP. Additionally, the Commission has established "Overlays" that modify underlying plan requirements to address specific concerns related to land use designations in key areas. Some of these issues include:
 - All subsurface Inuit Owned Lands parcels in the Kitikmeot region have been designated Mixed Use
 - The Kivalliq-Manitoba Linear Infrastructure Corridor, the Grays Bay Port and Road, and the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road have been assigned a Linear Infrastructure Corridors overlay within which any prohibitions on linear infrastructure and associated uses do not apply.
 - Existing Conservation Areas have now been assigned an Established Conservation Management Areas (ECMA) overlay that removes all underlying prohibitions and restrictions or are identified as Valued Components rather than Limited Use areas.

Draft Nunavut Land Use Plans (DNLUP)	Land Use Designations			Areas outside NPC jurisdiction
	Mixed Use	Conditional Use/ Special Management Area	Limited Use/ Protected Area	e.g., Established Parks
2023 RNLUP	65.01% (3.5% ECMA)	11.96%	19.76%	3.27%
2021 DNLUP	65.22%	9.36%	22.15%	3.27%
2016 DNLUP	77.93%	3.22%	15.58%	3.27%
2014 DNLUP	64.62%	17.05%	15.39%	2.95%

3. **Caribou Habitat Management:** The Commission has identified new habitat areas submitted by participants and implemented the following changes:
 - Identified new Caribou habitats in the Qikiqtaaluk region (Sea-Ice crossings, Calving, Post-Calving, Wintering Habitat)
 - Reduced Caribou Freshwater Crossings buffer from 10 km to 5 km
 - Changed Caribou Post-Calving areas from Limited Use to Conditional Use designation.
4. **Additional Community Areas of Interest:** The commission has added essential char fishing rivers as Limited Use areas in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot Regions.
5. **Additional Secondary Drinking Water Supply for Municipalities:** The Commission has included secondary watersheds for Iqaluit and Gjoa Haven which are situated outside the municipal boundaries as Limited Use areas.
6. **Special treatment of areas within the Tallurutiup Imanga National Marine Conservation Area:** The Commission has considered the feedback from affected communities, Designated Inuit Organizations and other relevant participants to provide special treatment for some areas within the proposed TINMCA.
7. **Transboundary Considerations:** The Commission has identified Contwoyto Lake and the Seal River Watershed as Valued Components to acknowledge possible transboundary effects that projects may have on these important watersheds.
8. **Existing Rights for Non-Renewable Resources:** To support economic development in Nunavut, the Commission has included in Appendix A and associated plan requirements 6.8.1-1 to 6.1.8-6, all existing Non-Renewable Resources rights overlapping with Limited Use designation as of September 30th, 2023, where prohibitions on these activities will not apply. These include mineral rights and exploration agreements, coal licenses, and oil and gas significant discovery licenses.

In addition, the text, plan requirements, and mapping have been revised throughout to resolve technical matters and language clarity concerns that emerged from submissions.

Next steps

The NPC is confident that the 2023 RNLUP represents a balanced, responsible, and approvable first-generation plan. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to meet with the signatories to discuss how your concerns and those of Nunavummiut and other participants have been considered in the 2023 RNLUP and to discuss the next steps toward plan approval.

Thank you for your active participation in this process. We look forward to discussing the future of the NLUP with you in the coming weeks. If you have any questions regarding the 2023 RNLUP or the planning process, please feel free to contact the Commission's Executive Director, Sharon Ehaloak at sehaloak@nunavut.ca.

Sincerely,



Andrew Nakashuk