



Nunavut Planning Commission

2021 Nunavut Draft Land Use Plan

Backgrounder

The 2021 Nunavut Draft Land Use Plan (the Plan) is a requirement of the Nunavut Agreement. The Plan covers the entire Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA), one fifth of Canada's land mass, representing some 2.1 million square kilometres of land and water. The geographic coverage and the range of issues addressed is without precedent, not just within Canada but internationally.

The Plan establishes guidelines as to how, where and when the land can be used. It is a living document and provides a framework for development and conservation and will guide Nunavut into the future. It represents a balanced approach for protecting the land, wildlife, wildlife habitats and our drinking water, improving food security and building healthier communities while also providing for responsible and sustainable economic development, and contributes to shared prosperity.

The Draft Plan is supported by a companion document – the *2021 Options & Recommendations*, - that summarizes submissions from our planning partners and participants on identified issues and the Commission's considerations and rationale for the various policies and land use designations recommended in the Draft Plan.

Process, Mandate and Vision

The NDLUP is based on evidence collected by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) since 2007, including community consultation, technical meetings, and public hearings. The Commission heard from Nunavummiut (community residents) who said that the land use plan should respect their culture, language, lifestyles and traditions, values and Nunavut's unique ecosystem. These priorities are incorporated into the NDLUP.

The Commission is guided by its commitment to ensure meaningful, respectful, and inclusive consultation that considers Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (knowledge and tradition) and western science. The Commission held hundreds of community meetings, numerous technical workshops, and visited every community in Nunavut at least twice. Commissioners also visited the Athabasca Dënesųliné communities in northern Manitoba and held a public hearing in Iqaluit for the Qikiqtani and Nunavik regions.

The Commission heard from a wide range of experts in the fields of sustainable development, wildlife, the environment, and industry. The Commission's entire public record, including consultations, written comments, submissions, and transcripts is available online at: <http://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry.php>



Protecting the Environment

The consultation process clearly shows that a key priority for Nunavummiut is the protection of the environment and their way of life. The Draft Plan incorporates and prioritizes conservation and wildlife protection.

The Commission also heard concerns about the impact of climate change on one of the most fragile ecosystems in the world and the need to protect species like caribou as well as whale calving areas and polar bear habitat. The NDLP reflects those priorities.

Economic Development and Improving Quality of life

The Commission took a comprehensive view on responsible and sustainable economic development that considers health and quality of life as well as job creation and resource development – renewable and non-renewable. This takes into account Inuit traditions, lifestyles and values surrounding sustainable harvesting and hunting which are also important components of Nunavut's economy at the territorial, regional and community levels.

The Plan provides clear guidance about land use, where and when projects will be allowed and under what conditions, including seasonal restrictions. Existing rights currently held by companies are respected under the DNLUP.

Commissioners also recognizes the need to provide opportunities for sustainable economic development and projects that will help to build healthier communities for generations to come.

Land Use Designations Within the Nunavut Settlement Area

The Plan is based on the Broad Planning Policies, Objectives, and Goals, which were developed in close collaboration with Canada, Nunavut, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI) in 2007. The Plan establishes one of three types of land use designations:

- 1.** Limited Use areas comprise 22 percent of all land and marine areas in the NSA and Outer Land Fast Ice Zone. The Limited Use areas are characterized by the year-round prohibitions on one or more types of land use. They may also include conformity requirements, such as seasonal prohibitions on certain land uses or setback requirements around important features.
- 2.** Conditional Use areas, which include 9 percent of land and marine areas, are characterized by conformity requirements such as seasonal prohibitions on certain land uses, and setback requirements around important features.
- 3.** Mixed Use areas make up 65 percent of land and marine areas. They have been identified for their potential to support a variety of land uses and are characterized by no prohibited uses or conformity requirements.



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An additional 3 percent of land and marine areas is within established parks where the Plan does not apply.

Next Steps

The Commission is pleased to have recently received additional funding from the federal government to conduct regional public hearings on the updated Draft Plan in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions in November 2021, and depending on additional funding, will hold hearings in Pond Inlet and Iqaluit early in 2022. The Commission may make further changes to the Plan based on the feedback received through written submissions and regional public hearings and intends to submit a recommended DNLUP to Canada, Nunavut and NTI for approval by March 31, 2022.