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Nunavunmi Parnaiyiit
Nunavut Planning Commission
Commission d'Aménagement du Nunavut

July 2, 2014

The Honourable Bernard Valcourt
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Government of Canada
Executive Offices
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

bernard.valcourt@parl.gc.ca

Delivered by Electronic Mail

Dear Honourable Valcourt,

RE: Funding for the Nunavut Land Use Plan Public Hearing

You will know that Nunavut Land Use Public Hearing, scheduled for November 2014, requires immediate funding from the federal government. This federal commitment has been the subject of promises made by the federal government going back to the negotiated Nunavut Land Claims Agreement in the early 1990's. You will know the fiduciary duty, generally, of the federal government, to properly honour it's promises, has been the subject of discussion and litigation, in many venues, covering many different subjects, across Canada. The Nunavut Planning Commission (the Commission) has indicated to federal government staff and your office that the lack of funding is the sole reason for the present suspension of the fall 2014 public hearings. By this letter, we repeat our position, clearly stated to the government previously, that the hearings, that are now suspended, will be indefinitely canceled on Friday July 4th due to this lack of funding.

The government has failed to respond, in any meaningful way, to our request for these funds. The further silence of the government, on this subject, will be taken as a clear refusal to honour it's fiduciary obligation. The NPC reserves the right to take any action necessary to compel the government to honour its obligation.

The people of Nunavut have the right to have the future use of the lands and waters of Nunavut determined in an orderly fashion and the pending Nunavut wide Land Use Plan is designed to provide that framework. Every community in Nunavut has contributed to the present Draft plan and every community waits for the opportunity for the public hearing to move the process forward. The federal government can be the partner with the people of Nunavut in moving this process forward, or their adversary and impede the process from continuing. The continued silence and absence of funds is a breach of the federal government's legal obligations, not only to the institution of the Commission, but more importantly to the Canadian citizens who call Nunavut home. Recent press releases from the government demonstrate a lack of understanding, at the Cabinet level, of the history of this long process. The Commission will ensure that the record is made clear so that the public and Cabinet will benefit from knowing all the facts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Kabloona". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Percy Kabloona
A/Chairperson,
Nunavut Planning Commission

CC. Honourable Johnny Mike, Nunavut Government
Cathy Towntongie, President Nunavut Tunngavik
Charlie Evalik, President Kitikmeot Inuit Association
David Ningeongan, President Kivalliq Inuit Association
Okalik Egeesiak, President Qikiqtani Inuit Association
Jeannie Ehaloak, President Nunavut Association of Municipalities
Christopher Warner, Northern Manitoba Denesuline
Tina Giroux, Northern Saskatchewan Denesuline