



# Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

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February 10, 2011

To: Distribution List

## **Re: Draft Sahtu Land Use Plan Available for Review and Comment**

Dear Sirs and Madame,

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB or "the Board") was established under the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)* to develop a land use plan for the Sahtu Settlement Area that provides for the conservation, development and use of land, waters and other resources. The Plan provides direction to proponents and regulators on what land uses are appropriate, where and sets out broad conditions for development to achieve the goals of the region. For clarity, nothing in the land use plan restricts traditional harvesting rights as enshrined in land claim agreements.

As First Nations adjacent to the Sahtu Settlement Area, you are invited to review and submit written comments on the current draft (Draft 3) of the Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP). A CD containing all Plan documents, and a hardcopy Plain Language Summary of the Plan have been included with this letter. The Plan and associated documents can also be downloaded off the Board's website at [www.sahtulanduseplan.org](http://www.sahtulanduseplan.org). At this time, the following documents included in the CD will be of interest to you:

- **Plan** – This is the main document that is intended to be legally binding upon completion and approval
- **Background Report** – Contains all background information and mapping considered in Plan development
- **Conformity Requirement Implementation Guide** – Provides preliminary information and guidance on how the Plan's rules are expected to be implemented. Following further revision, this document is expected to be included in the Plan.

The Board has been developing the Plan for the past 12 years. It has evolved considerably in the past 3 years and is now nearing completion. The Board expects to hold a public hearing on Draft 3 in the spring of 2011 to which you will also be invited. Following the Hearing, the Board will make any final revisions it deems appropriate. The Final Draft Plan will then be submitted to the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for approval in accordance with the MVRMA. Following approval, the First Nations, departments and agencies of the federal and territorial governments, and every body having authority under any federal or territorial law to issue



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licences, permits or other authorizations relating to the use of land or waters or the deposit of waste, must carry out their powers in accordance with the approved Plan.

For your information, the Board has been communicating with planning bodies in adjacent regions over the last 2 years regarding the development of the Sahtu Land Use Plan. We have assessed transboundary zoning and will continue to do so through final revisions. This information is presented in Section 1.9 4 of Draft 3 (pages 15-17).

We also draw your attention to section 15 of the MVRMA, which reads as follows:

*Despite any provision of this Act respecting members of a board, if an aboriginal people has a right under a land claim agreement to representation on that board in relation to a decision of the board that might affect an area used by that aboriginal people that is outside the board's area of jurisdiction, the board shall, in accordance with that land claim agreement, determine how to implement that right.*

**The Board does not view the current Plan as affecting areas outside the Sahtu Settlement Area.** However, if your organization has a different view and feels that section 15 applies, please feel free to present your opinion in your comments.

If you have any questions on the Plan, please contact our lead planner, Heidi Wiebe at (403) 984-3916 or [Heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca](mailto:Heidi.wiebe@shaw.ca). **Comments should be submitted to the Board by April 1st, 2011** and can be emailed to Heidi at the email address above, or mailed or faxed to:

Sahtu Land Use Planning Board  
P.O. Box 235  
Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0  
Ph: (867) 598-2055  
Fax: (867) 598-2545

We will add your organizations to our distribution list to receive future updates on the Public Hearing and Sahtu Land Use Plan. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Mahsi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JWB' with a large flourish at the end.

Judith Wright-Bird  
Chairperson  
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

Atch: CD of Draft 3 Sahtu Land Use Plan Documents  
Draft 3 Plain Language Summary



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**CC:**

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