



## THE SAHTU SECRETARIAT INCORPORATED

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October 29, 2010

Ms. Judith Wright-Bird  
Chairperson  
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board  
Box 235  
Fort Good Hope, NT  
X0E 0H0

Dear Ms. Wright-Bird:

**RE: Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and Review of Draft 3 of the Sahtu Land Use Plan**

The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) has been working on the review of the captioned Draft of the Sahtu Land Use Plan (the "Plan"). The SSI Board met October 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010 in Norman Wells and considered the challenges associated with preparing a position on the Plan and the time frames proposed by the Planning Board both for written submissions and for the public hearing, now scheduled for November 23 to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Norman Wells.

SSI will soon have a preliminary analysis of the Plan completed, but given the complexity of the issues which are being identified, we consider it imperative to have the opportunity to discuss the Plan with Sahtu Communities and participants before setting out a final position to the Planning Board. You must understand as well, that SSI has been conducting this work with limited resources and that these constraints have affected progress toward completion of a submission and our capacity to speak on behalf of Sahtu organizations and participants.

SSI believes that the funding made available to date is not sufficient to enable communities and Sahtu organizations to provide truly informed positions to the Board. At the same time, completion of the Plan is a very important step in the implementation of the Sahtu Land Claim. SSI believes that it is incumbent on government and the Planning Board to ensure that parties participating in the hearing are properly informed and have the resources necessary to participate fully in the proceeding. In our view, this may only occur if sufficient time and resources are available for Sahtu organizations and participants to prepare.

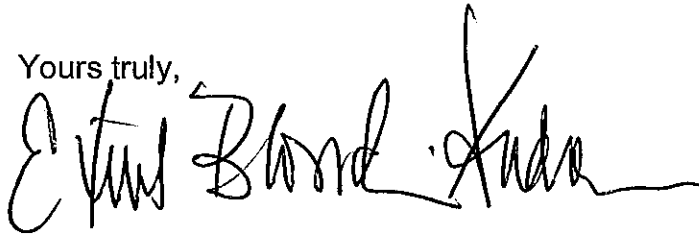
Consequently, SSI is requesting an adjournment of the hearing until early in the New Year. We believe that the extra time is needed to enable consultation among SSI,

communities and Sahtu organizations and participants. We also believe that the extra time will enable us to address the financial restrictions we have mentioned and to ensure informed participation can take place in your hearing. This adjournment will provide a basis for a fair and comprehensive review of the Plan.

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We trust that the basis for our request and the reasons why we think an adjournment is required are clear.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethel Blondin-Andrew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ethel Blondin-Andrew  
Chairperson SSI

cc. RDG INAC  
ENR GNWT