

## **TULITA ELDERS WORKSHOP**

**January 24 and 25, 2011**

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The workshop was organized by Gordon Yakeleya the President of Tulita Land Corporation to seek the views of the elders of Tulita on issues related to lands in the Mackenzie Mountains. Gordon also issued invitations to the members of Fort Norman Metis Land Corporation and Norman Wells Land Corporation to participate if they wished to do so.

The workshop was facilitated by Rick Hardy and Leon Andrew. The SLUPB provided a number of maps to assist the discussions. The workshop was opened with a prayer after 1:00 p.m. on Monday January 24 which was followed by welcoming remarks from Gordon. Gordon then turned the meeting over to Rick and Leon and left the group to its deliberations.

Rick then made an opening presentation emphasizing that the discussions would be limited to issues related to the Mackenzie Mountains located in the Tulita District. The SLUPB had provided a map showing the area which corresponded generally to Tulita Mountain Area and the PCI's that were shown on earlier SLUPB materials.

Rick explained that there were four related issues and the issues were:

- 1 – The proposed National Park (NNPR);
- 2 – The proposed National Wildlife Area(s)/Protected Area Strategy (National Wildlife Area(s));

3 – Land owned by Tulita District in the Mackenzie Mountains (Tulita Lands); and

4 – The Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Rick proposed to discuss each topic separately and as there appeared to be consensus on this approach Rick began with NNPR.

Rick, with the assistance of Leon, presented the history of the NNPR proposal including the Land Withdrawal, the negotiation of the IBP and the issues about the boundaries. There were many questions from the Elders which resulted in a lot of discussion involving interpreting. The Elders then continued the discussion in their own language without any interpretation except when they had specific questions for Rick.

Following all of this the Elders decided that they supported the establishment of NNPR and that they supported the boundary proposal presented at the SLUP Workshop held in Tulita on January 6 and 7, 2011, by Lee Montgomery of Parks Canada.

Rick advised the Elders that the GNWT wanted to exclude an area around the Little Nahanni River so that Hydro development could be studied and possibly developed for sale to the Selwyn Mine. Rick also explained that Parks Canada did not support the proposal because it would interfere with an important area for Caribou. The Elders supported the idea of including this area in NNPR.

Rick also advised the Elders that the GNWT wanted to exclude the Lened area because of mineral potential in that area. Rick also explained that Parks Canada did not support this proposal because it would interfere with an important area for Sheep. The Elders supported the idea of including this area in NNPR.

The Elders decided that this was enough for the day so the meeting concluded for the day.

### **January 25, 2011**

The meeting reconvened at 10:00 a.m. with an opening prayer. Gordon then made some opening comments and again turned the meeting over to Rick and Leon.

Rick summarized the results of the previous day and there was no disagreement on those conclusions.

Rick then noted that he had neglected to specifically mention the proposed Canol and Doe'doh Territorial Park(s). Rick explained that this happened because he, like most Tulita Dene and Metis simply assume that the proposed parks will be created some day and that they should continue to be shown as PCI's on the SLUP. There was general agreement on the way Rick explained this matter.

Rick, with the assistance of Leon, then tried to explain the issues surrounding the proposed National Wildlife Area(s) and the Tulita District Lands. Part of this explanation included references to the mineral potential maps that had been prepared by the SLUP Board as well as some information on the latest applications for prospecting permits in the Tulita District.

The meeting then tried to deal with the various issues by looking at maps of individual parcels of Tulita District Lands that had been prepared by the SLUP Board. At this point in time the meeting stalled with Rick remarking that he felt "stuck". A break was then taken for lunch and time to think about the issues.

During the break it was explained to Rick that it was difficult to look at individual parcels of Tulita District Lands because the Elders looked at lands without artificial borders and preferred to deal with land issues on a geographic/use basis.

The meeting reconvened after lunch and following further discussions the following conclusions were reached with regard to the Mackenzie Mountains as that area was outlined on the maps prepared by the SLUP Board.

- 1 – NNPR should remain as agreed to the previous day;
- 2 – Canol and Doe'doh should remain as previously agreed to;
- 3 – The current proposed Conservation Zones (Mountain Lakes, Plains of Abraham and Mountain Hot Springs) should remain as shown on the maps;
- 4 – The National Wildlife Area(s) should be removed and all of the land areas previously covered by these PCI's should become part of the Tulita Mountain Zone as SMZ;
- 5 – Four new Conservation Zones should be created as follows: June Lake, Caribou Flats, Keele River/Drum Lake Complex and Mackay Lake.

The new CZ's were drawn on to a map and Rick will deliver the map, in person, to Heidi Wiebe and Joel Ashworth of the SLUP Board in Calgary and will ask them to produce new maps for the Mackenzie Mountains based on all of these decisions.

There will then be another meeting before February 23, 2011 to review these new maps. Tulita Land Corporation will organize this meeting

and will invite FNMLC and NWLC to send representatives so that a District wide consensus can be reached at that time.

That meeting will also deal with the Land Use Planning issues in the Tulita District outside the Mackenzie Mountains that had been identified in correspondence from the SLUP Board.

### **NWLC MEETING**

Rick met with the Board of Directors and members of NWLC in Norman Wells on Saturday January 22, 2011 and reviewed the same matters with them. Although no formal decisions were taken at that meeting Rick's sense is that the NWLC members will be in support of the conclusions reached by the Tulita Elders. Rick also understands that the board of NWLC will be meeting shortly to consider the draft resolution about NNPR that had been circulated last week.

### **FNMLC MEETING**

Rick met with the Board of Directors of FNMLC in the evening on Tuesday January 25, 2011 and provided them with an overview of the results of the Tulita Elders meeting. As the FNMLC meeting had been called specifically to deal with the draft resolution that had been circulated last week most of the discussion focused on NNPR. The board of directors of FNMLC unanimously passed the resolution.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- 1 – Set the dates for the follow up meeting;
- 2 – Send invitations to the FNMLC and NWLC to participate in this meeting;
- 3 – Send invitations to the Board of Directors of TDLC to attend this meeting as a lot of the discussion will about their decision to rezone the Tulita District Lands;
- 4 – Send an invitation to the SLUP Board to attend this meeting;
- 5 – The Board of Directors of TLC should consider the draft resolution circulated last week (the resolution reflects the decisions taken at the Elders meeting); and
- 6 – The Board of Directors of NWLC should also consider the draft resolution.