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OCT 27 2005

Ms. Heidi Wiebe
Executive Director
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee
BOX 199
FORT PROVIDENCE NT X0E 0L0

VIA FACSIMILE: (867) 699-3166

Dear Ms. Wiebe:

**Government of the Northwest Territories' Collaboration
Towards a final Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan for Final Approval**

This letter is to advise you of our progress towards collaborating on a further draft of the Dehcho Land Use Plan (DLUP). The DLUP final draft, as an obligation of the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement (IMA), will need to fit within the broader land and resource management regime in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Since all parties agreed that it is important that the DLUP respects existing regulatory authorities and their jurisdictions, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is carefully considering how best to present particular wildlife and forest management, community development, transportation, tourism, and other economic development interests. In its September submission to the DLUP Committee (DLUPC), the GNWT pointed out areas of concerns around these matters. The GNWT's analyses and its work with you continues so that we can ensure that each Term (conformity requirement, actions, recommendations) stated in the DLUP fits within the existing regulatory structures. Your ongoing meetings and correspondence with staff are appreciated.

To further match the approach defined in the IMA, the GNWT continues to work towards specific suggestions that will recognize the DLUP as a regional level land use plan. As such, it would provide high-level direction for the full range of land use activities that occur in the area. Some areas remain where Terms and zones do not yet reflect GNWT policy, procedural guidelines, standards and processes. Our current analysis is helping us to define wordings or actions that have high likelihood of acceptability in order to facilitate final approval.

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Prior to finalizing a Dehcho agreement, land and resource allocation and management goals and objectives would need to be at a fairly high level with strategies outlined on how to achieve these. There are still some zones and associated Terms that are somewhat prescriptive in their application, detailing operational and regulatory level requirements. For example, Action #30/Conformity Requirement #5, regarding Cumulative Effects Management, contains operational level requirements and directions. Currently, the requirements and directions are not consistent with GNWT policy, procedural guidelines, standards, and processes. Further guidance in these regards is forthcoming.

As GNWT analysis and review progress, it may be suggested that certain approaches taken by the DLUPC would be better addressed through other means than the DLUP itself. The GNWT is noting these interests and would carry them forward appropriately.

Completion of a DLUP that meets the needs of all parties by March 2006 will be challenging. I understand an ambitious timeline is in place to revise the current draft for printing in the near future. Given the GNWT's ongoing analysis, it is evident that this next draft will contain outstanding concerns. While it may be beneficial to broaden awareness of the evolving DLUP, we caution that audiences need to recognize the draft DLUP as a work in progress document until the final DLUP has been approved. Ultimately, this will make it easier to implement the final DLUP.

Please note that in spite of remaining concerns, the tremendous investment of the DLUPC and the resulting work is well recognized. The GNWT is committed to continue its work with the DLUPC to resolve outstanding concerns. Ms. Jane McMullen of Environment and Natural Resources will be contacting you to arrange a meeting to discuss how best to resolve the concerns of the GNWT.

The GNWT continues to support the constructive, collaborative process taken towards a final draft of the DLUP that is acceptable to all parties. Thank you.

Sincerely,


R.P. Bailey
Deputy Minister

c. List Attached

**Ms. Debbie Delancey, Deputy Minister
Municipal and Community Affairs**

**Mr. Peter Vician, Deputy Minister
Industry, Tourism and Investment**

**Mr. Robert McLeod, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs**

**Mr. Dave Murray, Deputy Minister
Health and Social Services**

**Mr. Donald Cooper, Deputy Minister
Justice**

**Mr. Russell Neudorf, Deputy Minister
Transportation**

**Mr. Richard Bargery, Principal Secretary
Executive**

**Mr. Ron Antoine
GNWT Representative
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee**