



# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2010

The draft Land Use Plan was submitted to the Provincial and Nunatsiavut governments for their review and comments. The steps to complete the Plan are provided at the end of this newsletter.

During February and March 2010 the Regional Planning Authority (RPA) held public consultation meetings to solicit comments on the draft Regional Land Use Plan for the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA). In addition to the comments received at the meetings, written submissions were also received by the RPA from individuals, companies, government departments and agencies.

All of the submissions were reviewed by the RPA resulting in a number of revisions to the text, maps and schedules of the land use plan.

The following summarizes the comments and submissions received and how the RPA responded to them.

## 1. Traditional Use Designation

Comments ranged from the Traditional Use Designation being too extensive to “why do we need a Traditional Use designation?”

Much of the Traditional Use designation covers Labrador Inuit Lands (LIL). It was noted that the Nunatsiavut Government receives greater economic returns from development within LIL than from the development within the Labrador Inuit Settlement Area (LISA) outside of LIL. It was stated that there are considerable resources that would be economically viable to develop in close proximity to the coast.

The 5 kilometre (km) buffer along the coastline was identified a number of times as being too wide and restricted development in this area.

Two large areas designated as Traditional Use were mentioned as being far too extensive.

One is north-west of Nain (George River caribou calving area) and the other is north-east of Rigolet

A further concern raised was that almost the entire coastline was designated as Traditional Use with no access or portals to the coast to bring natural gas from offshore drilling to a coastal terminal.

There were a number of comments received indicating the Traditional Use designation should be retained to protect the area from development and to ensure that the area is sustainable for traditional hunting and fishing.

**RPA Recommended** the Traditional Use designation shown on Schedule A be significantly reduced in area. The primary changes include:

- general reduction in the width of the designation along the coast from 5 km to 2 km.
- reduction in size of the protected area for the George River caribou calving ground
- reduction in size of the protected area for caribou habitat and staging area for waterfowl in the designation north of Rigolet

## 2. Resource Development Designation

A number of comments and submissions were received that the process of requiring an amendment to the Plan to designate land as Resource Development to permit the development of a mine was an unnecessary step given that there are already sufficient checks and balances in place with the Environmental Assessment process and the requirement for Inuit Impacts and Benefits

Agreements prior to a mining operation commencing.

**RPA Recommended** the Plan be amended to add mining as a discretionary use in the General Use Designation and that the Resource Development Designation be deleted from the Plan.

### 3. Permitted Uses in the General Use Designation

Comments were received that the uses within the General Use Designation should be increased. Examples given were mining and compressed or liquefied natural gas terminals.

**RPA Recommended** the General Use Designation be amended as follows:

- (a) oil and gas exploration be added as a permitted use.
- (b) a Discretionary Use section be added to the Plan to permit the following uses:
  - Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminal
  - Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal
  - mineral processing facility
  - mining
  - natural gas fired electrical generating facility
  - natural gas processing facility
- (c) for the above discretionary uses to be permitted, the following must be complied with before permission for a discretionary use will be considered:
  - the government having jurisdiction determines that the use is appropriate in the proposed location
  - public consultation is undertaken to inform residents of the proposal
  - an environmental assessment is undertaken where required
  - the Nunatsiavut Government will determine if the project will adversely impact on a winter travel route

### 4. Access and Portals to the Coast

Comments were received that the entire shoreline was designated as Traditional Use with no access to the coast or portals for

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) port terminals.

**RPA Recommended** opening up the coast in various locations for access to the coast and to provide portals to offshore oil and gas resources. This results in the Traditional Use designation being removed in a number of locations and replaced with the General Use Designation.

### 5. Significant Wildlife Areas

During the community consultations, it was noted that many important fishing and waterfowl areas were not identified in the southern portion of LISA. Individuals provided information on the locations of these wildlife areas.

**RPA Recommended** a number of additional areas be added to Schedule A as Environmentally Sensitive Areas. The locations are from north of Hopedale extending south to the Groswater Bay area along the coast. The Mulligan area on the north shore of Lake Melville was also identified. These areas are to be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Area. The designation covers a number of islands and will restrict development to existing uses. It also will not permit intensification or new uses within 100 metres of the shoreline within the Traditional Use designation.

### 6. Salmon Rivers

During the community consultations, it was noted that there are salmon rivers that should be protected from development.

**RPA Recommended** salmon rivers be recognized in the Plan by designating them Traditional Use along with a 1 km buffer on each side of the river.

### 7. Recognizing Heritage Communities

Comments were received that a number of heritage communities should be recognized due to their historic significance. Heritage communities identified during the consultation process included Okak, Nutak, Ailik, Snooks Cove, Double Mer, Smokey, Mulligan, Grassy

Cove, Winter's Cove, Long Tickle, Ford's Bight and Nisbett's Harbour.

**RPA Recommended** that Schedule C be added to the Plan to identify heritage communities. A new section was inserted in the Plan to guide development in heritage communities by permitting only cabins. Archaeological and burial sites within these areas are to be protected.

#### **8. Recognizing Heritage Homesteads and Camping/Tenting Areas**

Comments were received that there are a number of homesteads and camping/tenting areas that should be recognized due to their historic significance.

Heritage homesteads identified during the public consultation process included Big Bight, Bob's Brook and Big Bay.

A number of traditional camping/tenting areas were identified during the public consultation process. These included Grant's Brook; Bear Island; Deep Cove, Seal Rocks, Jack Point and Henry's Point in Back Bay; Sally's Rattle; Tent Boat Cove; Bear Island; and Goose Brook Point.

**RPA Recommended** that heritage homesteads and camping/tenting areas be shown on Schedule C. A new section was added to the Plan stating cabins would be permitted in heritage homestead areas provided archaeological and burial sites are protected. Further that in traditional camping/tenting areas no development would be permitted and the sites should remain as camping/tenting areas.

#### **9. Existing Mining Claims Outside of the General Use Designation (10 year freeze on Plan Amendments Outside of the General Use Designation)**

There were a number of mining claims that were not within the General Use designation. Under the policies within the first draft Plan, it would be 10 years before an amendment could be considered to designate them as General Use.

Mining claims are granted to carry out exploration. It was indicated that in order to raise capital for exploration, there is the expectation that if a mineral is found to be economically viable to extract, that there are reasonable requirements (e.g. environmental assessment) that can be met. Without this, the raising of capital is very difficult and exploration may not proceed.

It was also stated that hundreds of mining claims may be staked for each one that is developed as a mine and that parcels may be staked three or four times before sufficient work is completed to show that a site is viable to proceed. Markets also dictate when a resource may be economically viable to extract.

**RPA Recommended** the requirement for a restriction on the number of years before an amendment is considered be deleted from the Plan.

With the Traditional Use Area designation being reduced in size as noted earlier, the General Use designation increases in size thereby recognizing additional mining claims.

#### **10. Proposed Mealy Mountains National Park**

Comments were received concerning the newly announced proposed Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve. People stated that the proposed uses in the area should be in keeping with the proposed park. The possibility of a gateway into the Park in the Lake Melville area was also noted.

**RPA Recommended** the Traditional Use Designation be maintained along the southern shore of Lake Melville since part of the proposed park would be within this designation and this designation would help to ensure compatible uses in the area.

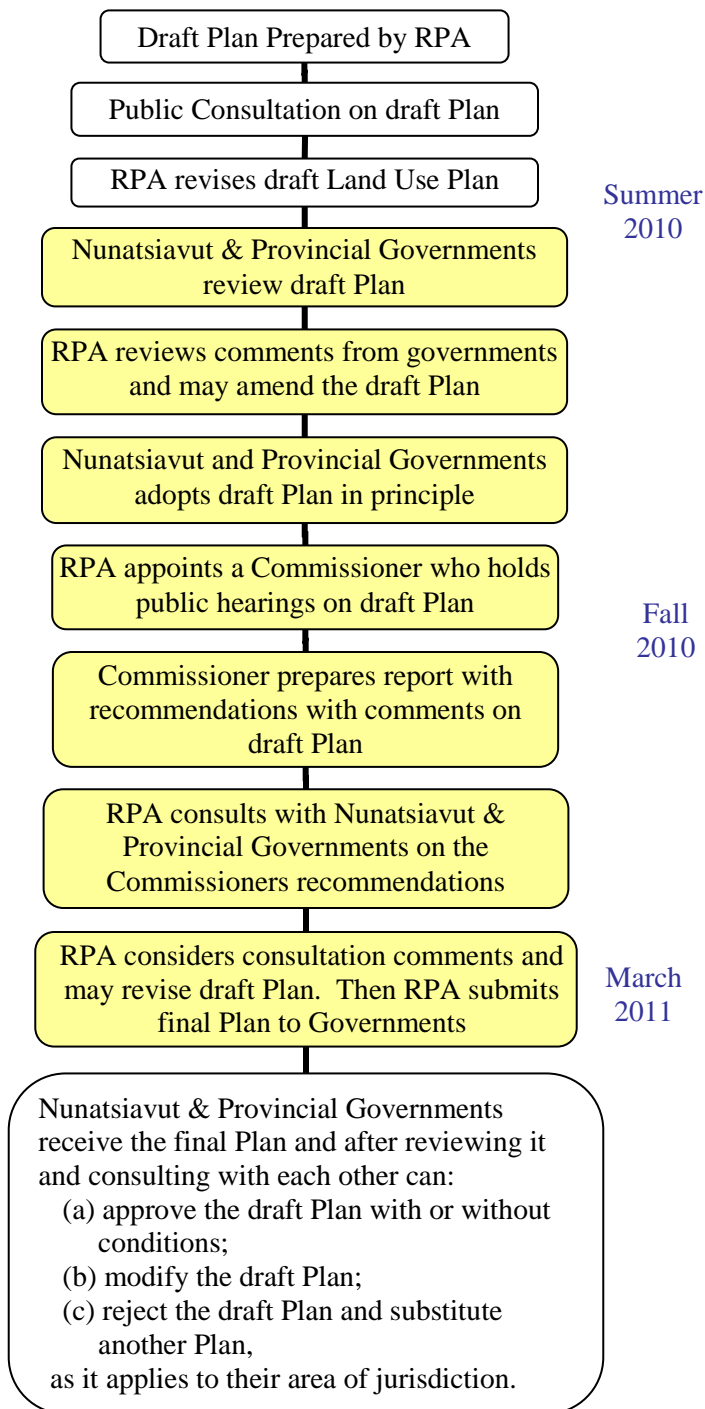
#### **11. Clarity in the Plan**

At the consultation meetings clarification was sought on a few matters and suggestions were made on possible changes in the text.

**RPA Recommended** a number of changes to the Plan to clarify specific concerns that were raised.

## 12. Process to Complete Land Use Plan

Questions have been asked about the process to complete the Plan. The Plan has recently been submitted to the Provincial and Nunatsiavut governments for their review. The following flow chart shows the process.



## 13. Providing Background Information

Questions were asked about the background material used in the development of the Plan. A number of the background maps were presented at the public consultation meetings.

**RPA Recommended** the Plan be amended with the addition of a number of plates showing the following information:

- Plate 8 Aullâsimavet, Cabins and Historic Settlement Areas within LISA
- Plate 9 Burial and archaeological Sites and Historic Settlements
- Plate 10 Proposed Mealy Mountains National Park
- Plate 12 Postville Proposed Forestry Harvesting Area
- Plate 13 Sensitive Wildlife Areas
- Plate 14 Central Mineral Belt and Mineral Occurrences in Labrador
- Plate 15 Exempt Mineral Lands (EML)

### LISA REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY MEMBERS

**STAN CLINTON, CHAIR ♦♦♦ MARY BISHOP  
ISABELLA PAIN ♦♦♦ WILFRED PILGRIM**

A copy of the revised draft Regional Land Use Plan is available on the website at: [www.lisaplan.ca](http://www.lisaplan.ca)

For more information or to submit comments, please contact:

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