



NEWS RELEASE

Nunavut Mining and Exploration Industry Wants Changes to 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

(Iqaluit, Nunavut – March 13, 2017) The NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines (Chamber) remains highly concerned about the significant and long-term negative impact that the 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (2016 DNLUP) would have on mineral exploration and development and the overall economic health of the territory for decades to come. The 2016 DNLUP ignores scientific evidence and does not incorporate input provided by the Chamber or industry. The Chamber believes that the 2016 DNLUP should not be advanced, and that the Qikiqtani Regional Public Hearing currently scheduled to take place in Iqaluit from March 21 to 26, 2017 as well as regional public hearings in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions be postponed by the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) until a revised DNLUP is presented.

The Chamber and its members view Inuit, Inuit organizations, Northern residents, Institutions of Public Government established under the Nunavut Agreement, and the territorial and federal governments as partners in ensuring that Nunavut has a strong and responsible mining industry. The Chamber believes the 2016 DNLUP does not reflect fairly the input provided from all stakeholders, and that the process has been conflicted and not transparent. As such, we stand with our colleagues signaling that the 2016 DNLUP should not be advanced to public hearings until it is revised:

“The current DNLUP does not adequately address Inuit concerns, goals and objectives... subsurface IOLs (Inuit Owned Lands) were selected to support the exercise of mineral rights... constraining activities on subsurface IOLs directly detracts from promoting economic development in Nunavut, which is identified in the DNLUP 2016 as one of the key priority of Inuit and is an NPC Goal.” - Joint written submission of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. (NTI) and the three Regional Inuit Associations, January 13, 2017

“The NPC has neglected to consult with residents of Nunavut communities regarding the latest two drafts of the NLUP and that the NPC cannot possibly draw conclusions whether the 2016 version reflects the priorities and values of Nunavummiut, since no formal mechanism for communities to provide feedback to the NPC has been provided since 2013.” - Written submission of Nunavut Association of Municipalities, January 13, 2017

“Under the present proposed timetable, communities have complained that they don’t have the time or resources to do this final round of community consultations properly. The plan must also be redrafted to address many concerns that have been expressed about omissions and changes in the 2016 draft. The public hearing process should be halted to allow this to take place.” – Letter to Andrew Nakashuk, NPC Chair from Senator Dennis Patterson, January 13, 2017

Gary Vivian, President of the Chamber of Mines stated “We are growing increasingly concerned about an overly protective land use plan that unnecessarily increases investment risk. The territory must do all it can to regain investor confidence. A good place to start is to delay final public hearings on this flawed draft and significantly revise it by applying an appropriate process for its re-drafting and addressing the many concerns already raised. Only then should it be taken on the road for public hearing.”

Natural Resources Canada’s latest report *Exploration and Deposit Appraisal Expenditures, by Province and Territory* projects that exploration investment in Nunavut continues to decrease. Despite the tremendously strong mineral potential, the tide of investment leaving Nunavut has yet to turn. The *2016 Fraser Survey of*

Mining Companies paints Nunavut as one of the slowest jurisdictions to obtain permits and with substantially the highest level of regulatory uncertainty. A total of 72% of respondents stated that, to some degree, uncertainty over which areas will be protected as Wilderness, Parks, or Archeological Sites is a deterrent to them investing in Nunavut.

For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, please visit the website at www.miningnorth.com or contact Elizabeth Kingston at Tel: 867-979-5291 or email: generalmanagernu@miningnorth.com.