



MAR 10 2017

MR. KIERON TESTART
MLA, KAM LAKE

Oral Question 590-18(2): Land Use Plans

I am pleased to provide further detail related to your questions in the Legislative Assembly on February 16, 2017, related to the status of land use plans throughout the Northwest Territories.

Land use planning in the Northwest Territories has occurred on a regional basis according to settlement region boundaries. Within the land managed under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, legally binding land use plans are in place in the Gwich'in Settlement Region and the Sahtu Settlement Region and for Tłı̄chǫ Private Land in the Wek'èezhìi Management Area. Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, which does not fall under the scope of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, advisory community conservation plans are in place pursuant to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

Land use plans have not yet been established in the Dehcho region, in the areas northeast and southeast of Great Slave Lake, or for public land within the Wek'èezhìi Management Area. It is a Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) mandate commitment to complete land use plans for all areas of the Territory, including regions without land, resource, and self-government agreements. It is important to emphasize, however, that the GNWT is only one among several planning partners responsible for developing, approving, and implementing land use plans in these areas.

Within the Dehcho region, the GNWT, the Dehcho First Nations, and the Government of Canada are working to finalize an Interim Dehcho Land Use Plan through a process established by the Dehcho Interim Measures Agreement. Consistent with this process, the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee has submitted a draft plan to the Dehcho main table to address some outstanding issues and eventually commit the plan to public review and eventual approval.

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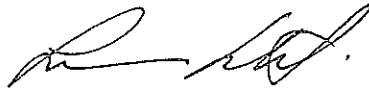
In the areas to the northeast and southeast of Great Slave Lake, progress towards a final land use plan is less advanced, though the GNWT continues to engage with Aboriginal governments and the Government of Canada on land use planning in these areas as land and resource agreement negotiations continue.

The GNWT is in productive discussions with the Tłıchǫ Government and other planning partners to develop terms of reference to move forward with land use planning for public land in the Wek'èezhìi Management Area under the Tłıchǫ Final Agreement.

Further information on land use planning in the Northwest Territories, including the status of land use plans within each region, is available on the Department of Lands' website at the following address:

<http://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/en/services/land-use-planning-nwt>

Thank you for your continued interest in land use planning in the Northwest Territories. If you have further questions, please contact my office at your earliest convenience.



Louis Sebert
Minister of Lands

- c. Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
- Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary
- Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator
- Mr. Willard Hagen, Deputy Minister, Department of Lands