



JUN 27 2016

MR. MICHAEL M. NADLI
MLA, DEH CHO

Oral Question: 198-18(2) Ka'a'gee Tu Protected Area

This letter is in follow-up to the Oral Question you raised on June 9, 2016 regarding the Ka'a'gee Tu Protected Area.

Conservation network planning and land use planning are complementary processes. For the past 15 years, conservation planning has been strongly linked to regional land use planning processes. Looking back, there are examples of strong collaboration and coordination between the advancement of candidate areas and the development and implementation of regional land use planning.

In the development of early versions of the Interim Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan, some areas (e.g. Sambaa K'e, Ka'a'gee Tu, Łue Túé Sųłái, and Ejié Túé Ndáde) were identified for designation as conservation zones but later were considered to require long term protection through legislation. These areas are referred to as the existing candidate areas in the Northwest Territories and will be identified in the revised five year plan for conservation network planning.

Currently Ka'a'gee Tu and the other Dehcho candidate areas are zoned as Candidate Protected Area Zones in the Interim Draft Dehcho Land Use Plan. Once these areas are established through legislation, a rezoning process would need to take place.

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Based on feedback received from engagement with Aboriginal governments and other partners including industry and non-governmental organizations, this plan makes the conclusion of the existing candidate areas a priority. This includes Ka'a'gee Tu candidate area. Concluding the conservation planning process for Ka'a'gee Tu candidate area will be based on the significant contributions of Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation and other members of the Ka'a'gee Tu Candidate Area Working Group which oversaw research assessing the cultural, ecological and economic values of this important area. The original study area was 9,605 km² and included a large portion of the Kakisa River watershed. The working group's revised recommended boundary is 6,800 km², or 70.8% of the original study area, and removes more of the high oil and gas potential while still retaining most of the important watershed features.

Thank you.



Wally Schumann
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

- c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Executive