

October 29, 2020

Matthew Spence  
Regional Director General  
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada  
PO BOX 1500  
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2R3

Sent by email

Dear Matthew Spence:

**RE: Board Appointments – Lack of Timely Nominations**

The Chairs of the Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley (the Boards) are writing in follow-up to our letter of August 21, 2020 to the Minister of Northern Affairs<sup>1</sup> and our subsequent meeting with the Minister on September 18, 2020. Minister Vandal acknowledged the importance of timely Board appointments and committed to putting more focus on the process as a whole. The Chairs wish to reiterate the appointment of Board members to the Land and Water Boards is a federal responsibility that is not limited to the signing of appointment letters but includes ensuring the nomination process is conducted in a timely manner.

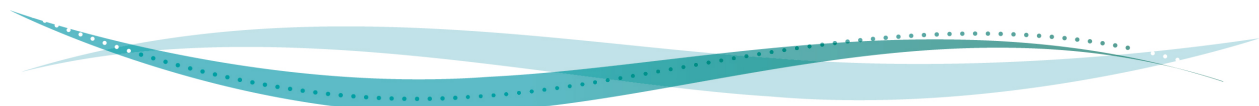
The Boards currently have vacancies and are facing many more in the near-term. These are listed below per nominating party:

- 1) Government of Canada:
  - The term for Kimberly Fairman (MVLWB) expired on August 13, 2020.
  - The term for Violet Doolittle (SLWB) expired on August 22, 2020.
  - The term for Gerry Kisoun (GLWB) expires March 1, 2021.
  - The term for Rachel Crapeau (WLWB) expires May 23, 2021.
- 2) Dehcho First Nation:
  - The term for Sam Gargan (MVLWB) expires on November 29, 2020.
- 3) Akaitcho Territory Government:
  - The term for Florence Catholique (MVLWB) expires on March 1, 2021.
- 4) Gwich'in Tribal Council:
  - The term for Nigit'stil Norbert (GLWB) expires March 1, 2021.
- 5) Government of the Northwest Territories:
  - Nominee for the WLWB submitted early March 2020.

Given that our recent experience with appointments indicates at least 9 to 10 months are required from the time of a nomination being submitted to the Minister and an appointment being approved, the Boards are currently anticipating significant vacancies in the coming months. The Boards are very busy, and these gaps create operational difficulties that impact the effectiveness and efficiency of our work.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://wlwb.ca/sites/default/files/lwb\\_letter\\_to\\_cirnac\\_minister\\_re\\_board\\_appointments\\_aug\\_21\\_20.pdf](https://wlwb.ca/sites/default/files/lwb_letter_to_cirnac_minister_re_board_appointments_aug_21_20.pdf)



# Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley

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Board vacancies can hinder the timely decision-making of the Boards which in turn can lead to delays in project approvals and associated economic development.

At this time, we are requesting an update on the process your office has in place, and what communications have been made with nominating parties to ensure the co-management Boards of the Mackenzie Valley can continue to make decisions without interruption or delays.

Sincerely,



Mavis Cli-Michaud  
Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board



Joseph Mackenzie  
Chair  
Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board



Larry Wallace  
Chair  
Sahtu Land and Water Board



Elizabeth Wright  
Chair  
Gwich'in Land and Water Board

