



MAR 24 2017

Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin
Acting Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water
Board
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Mr. Paul Sullivan
Chairperson
Gwich'in Land and Water Board
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Mr. Larry Wallace
Chairperson
Sahtu Land and Water Board
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Ms. Violet Camsell-Blondin
Chairperson
Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board
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Mr. Roger Connelly
Chairperson
Inuvialuit Water Board
PO BOX 2531
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Dear Chairpersons:

Municipal Compliance and Cooperation Letter

It is with utmost regret that I acknowledge there has been no response to your letter dated May 4, 2016. I wish to inform you that my office only recently became apprised of this letter, which outlines some of our recent collaboration initiatives, as well as your shared concerns regarding the challenges facing municipalities in maintaining compliance with their regulatory authorizations, specifically, with municipal water licences.

I assure you that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), along with the Departments of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and Health and Social Services (HSS), are committed to working with the Boards and with municipalities, to enhance their ability to maintain regulatory compliance.

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As you may be aware, an audit conducted in 2016-2017 by the Office of the Auditor General, recommended that MACA, in consultation with the ENR, should work with community governments to help identify and provide the necessary support and capacity building so that they can comply with regulatory and other waste management requirements.

To this end, our departments, along with the Department of Public Works and Services, will be expanding the mandate of the Interdepartmental Water and Wastewater Committee (Committee) to include support for solid waste management. The Committee will be preparing a work plan this fiscal year to meet the objectives of improving support and capacity building for community governments, and also how best to engage with your Boards in this area.

Moving forward, I agree fully with the suggestion put forward in your letter that our respective organizations should work together to identify current issues and potential strategies or approaches to enhance water licence compliance. Departmental officials will contact your offices in the coming weeks to establish a meeting to discuss work in this regard.

Thank you for your letter and for raising your concerns. I look forward to our continued collaboration in the management of the lands and water in the NWT, especially as we collectively move forward on regulatory improvement initiatives.

Sincerely,



Robert C. McLeod
Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

c. Honourable Glen Abernethy
Minister, Health and Social Services

Honourable Caroline Cochrane
Minister, Municipal and Community Affairs

Honourable Wally Schumann
Minister, Public Works and Services

Gary Bohnet
Principal Secretary