Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley

October 5, 2023

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Distribution List

Sent via email

Dear Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board Distribution List,

RE: Engagement Guidelines Update Status

The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley (LWBs) wish to inform the public of the status of the update to the LWBs' <u>Engagement Guidelines for Applicants and Holders of Water</u> <u>Licences and Land Use Permits</u> (the Guidelines).

In fall 2019, the LWBs first initiated a process to update the LWB *Engagement and Consultation Policy* (the Policy). Given that the original release of both the Policy and the Guidelines was almost a decade ago, the LWBs commenced a comprehensive and engaging process to update these important guidance documents. An <u>updated Policy</u> was implemented in January 2023. The LWBs subsequently notified all parties that a process to update the Guidelines was beginning. A public workshop was scheduled in May 2023, but unfortunately, in the days before, had to be cancelled due to several communities evacuating because of wildfire.

The LWBs wish to highlight that parties are invited to provide recommendations for the LWBs' consideration at any time during this update process. The LWBs will also provide specific opportunities for all parties to provide formal input into the update of the Guidelines, including the Engagement Contact List in Appendix C and how the LWBs can best ensure that up-to-date contact information is maintained and available for all parties. The LWBs will notify all parties of these opportunities as the update process is further developed, including the potential rescheduling of the public workshop.

In the interim, the LWBs wish to emphasize that the Guidelines, including Appendix C, are meant to be used as a starting point and guide, but during engagement, it is essential that the objectives of the Policy are met, including identifying and engaging all potentially affected parties, whether or not they are listed in Appendix C of the Guidelines. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Racher at (867) 766-7457 or via email.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Kathleen Racher Executive Director Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Leonard DeBastien Executive Director Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Ryan Fequet Executive Director Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board

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Paul Dixon Executive Director Sahtu Land and Water Board