

## **Memo re: Interests and Issues Report Additional Information**

**From:** Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

**To:** Yukon Land Use Planning Council

**Attn:** Tim Van Hinte, Sam Skinner and Nicole Percival

**Date:** April 16th, 2019

**Re:** Additional Information to TH submission on Aug 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Memo re. Interests and Issues Report

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Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in would like to include this additional information as part of the package which comprises our '*Issues and Interest*' submission to the Commission. As such, our full and complete '*Issues and Interest Report*' shall include:

- 1) *Dawson Regional Land Use Plan Preliminary Report on Issues and Interest, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (2011);*
- 2) *Memo re: Issues and Interest Report (August 2018);*
- 3) *Memo re: Issues and Interest Report Additional Information (April 2019).*

### **Additional Information:**

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) is currently undertaking a substantial project called **Ninànkäk hqzq wëk'àtr'ènhcha: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Land Stewardship Framework** (LSF). Ninànkäk hqzq wëk'àtr'ènhcha is the Hän translation for "We look after our land." The overall purpose for the LSF is to enable us to take strong stewardship actions over the lands and waters in our Traditional Territory (TT). This is being accomplished by capturing and recording the essence of our cultural traditions and beliefs Tr'ëhudè ("Our Way of Life") in documents, that describe Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens' relationship to the Land.

TH has been working on components of the LSF since October 2018, that include researching and learning about Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCAs), and gathering techniques and methodologies from Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water (RELAW) and the Indigenous Law Research Unit (ILRU) that will be used in creating our values framework. We expect that information generated from LSF outputs (e.g. mapping products) can be provided to the DRLUP Commission for consideration by way of TH Technical Working Group (TWG) members.

Additional LSF activities over the winter months have included a cultural mapping workshop, several Stewards of the Land gatherings out on the land, dozens of cultural mapping interviews with TH citizens, digitization of older TH land-use maps, a wetland workshop with Ducks Unlimited Canada, data collation and analysis, and several draft guiding document outputs from TH consultants and project partners.

**Interests:**

*Ninànkäk hqzq wëk'àtr'ènhcha: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Land Stewardship Framework (LSF)* is a priority for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Key objectives of the LSF for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in include participation in the management of public resources, support for progress with internal TH settlement land and traditional territory planning and management, participation in regional land use planning processes, capacity to exercise stewardship obligations, and cultural revitalization and resilience. As exhibited through customary TH law, we have stewardship responsibilities to the land within our TT. Ninànkäk hqzq wëk'àtr'ènhcha aligns with fulfilling our spiritual and cultural obligations to the land.

Consideration and understanding of the LSF project is a key interest for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in during planning in the Dawson Region. Project outputs and activities are intended to assist TH with participation in the regional planning process. As mentioned above, information sharing with the Commission will occur regularly to ensure that the Commission is working with the most contemporary and relevant information regarding TH's position on 'Issues and Interests' within the Dawson regional planning boundary.

Attached is a framing document presented to the commission during their orientation and training in April 2018. This document provides an overarching framework guiding the LSF project, as well as insight into the issues and interests of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in that will be brought to light throughout the work plan for the project. All values outlined in the Dënezhu document is reflected in our Final and Self Government Agreements, so that they are recognized and protected into the future.