



MEMO - DRAFT

TO: CLUPP Review Committee

FROM: Lesley Cabott

RE: CLUPP Jurisdictional Review Summary of Key Findings

This memo highlights some of the key findings from the regional planning jurisdictional review carried out in November 2014. A review of regional planning in Canada was done primarily through a literature review with some targeted email correspondence and five telephone interviews. Regional planning programs in Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Northern Quebec, Labrador, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northern Ontario were examined.

Telephone interviews were done with regional planners representing: Government of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut Planning Commission, and Governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Canada.

Detailed jurisdictional information responding to the below themes is provided for each jurisdiction along with a summary matrix (attached). We look forward to discussing the findings with you on December 11th at 1:00 pm in the Planning Council Office.

This key findings summary report discusses the following themes:

- Legislative context
- Land claims (settled/nonsettled)
- Role of affected governments
- Process oversight
- Commission structure, role and staff
- Land designation system
- Planning process
- Planning products
- Plan implementation and review

The first key finding is that regional planning in Canada is difficult. The jurisdictions share the same challenges. Those being high costs, long processes, diverse interests, professional planning capacity, lack of information and approving plans.

Legislative Context

Regional planning in Canada is conducted in two contexts. One is initiated through the ratification of a land claim and the other by way of provincial legislation and/or policy direction. In the case of the land claim initiated processes planning for the residents, and the Inuit and/or First Nation of the settlement region is a priority interest. In the cases of planning occurring in jurisdictions without land claims/treaties – provincial interests take priority.

Land Claims

There are regional planning programs in Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, Northern Quebec and Labrador because of land claim agreements with Canada and tripartite agreements with Yukon and NWT.

Role of Affected Governments

Canada, provincial/territorial and First Nation/Inuit Governments' role in regional planning varies between the jurisdictions. Municipalities play a role only in Alberta's regional planning process. The roles range from appointing members to commissions, planning, setting priorities, and approving plans, funding planning programs and implementing plans.

Process Oversight

There is limited process oversight in regional planning programs that come out of the land claim agreements. The oversight is achieved through funding contributions and commission membership. Oversight cannot be achieved at the approval stage. In the provincial jurisdictions there is bureaucratic and political oversight.

Commission Structure, Role and Staff

The planning structures vary from appointed commissions in the land claim planning regions to stakeholder advisory and government committees in the provincial regional planning programs. In all cases there are planning staff and planning departments/secretariats. Some jurisdictions hire consultants to plan and carry out consultation programs, for example Alberta hires consultation experts for First Nation (1.5 million) and non-First Nation consultation (1 million) programs. There are no planning councils or boards in between the planning commissions and governments (parties) except in Yukon. The Labrador Inuit Land Claim specifically identifies an appointed professional planner. Regional planners in the north are typically land managers and resource managers and not trained planning professionals.

Land Designation Systems

The land designation systems vary. However, within the jurisdictions the land designation system is consistent with the exception of NWT and Yukon. The designations are high level and strategic as are the plans. Typically, the designations include Protected Areas, Special Management Areas, General Use Area and Resource Extraction/Development Areas.

Planning Process

The planning processes are public, collaborative and consensus based. In the case of BC there is interest-based negotiations to settle disputes. This was not identified in other jurisdictions. Planning in the land claimed areas are focused on all lands in the settlement region. Planning in the provinces applies to crown land except in Alberta where the regional plans apply to all land but not First Nation land, treaty land or federal lands. In the case of the Alberta, BC and Saskatchewan planning process the Cabinet makes the final decisions.

Planning Products

The planning products produced during the planning process are similar. There are resource and land use information reports/maps/directories and draft, recommended and final plans. Depending on the jurisdiction, agreed-to objectives and priorities are arrived at differently. In Labrador the Nunatsiaq the commission identifies the objectives and the principles for the region and planning. In Yukon the Council makes recommendations to Government.

Plan Implementation and Review

The government with the jurisdictional power implements the policies in the Plans. In the NWT and Nunavut the planning commissions continue to have a role once the plans are complete. In Yukon and Labrador the commission are disbanded following the acceptance of the recommended plan. Most jurisdictions call for a review every 5 years. This has not occurred in any jurisdiction. The Gwich'in are reviewing their plan now after more than ten years.

We look forward to discussing the findings with you and getting direction on the next phase.

Yours truly,

Lesley Cabott MCIP
Planner

Attachments:

- Regional Planning Summary
- Jurisdictional Review sheets (11 jurisdictions)