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May 7, 2004

Phyllis Beaulieu
Licencing Administrator
Nunavut Water Board
P.O. Box 119
Gjoa Haven, NU X0B 1J0

Via e-mail

Dear Ms. Beaulieu

Re: Application for Type B Water Licence, Maguse Lake Project

INAC Water Resources reviewed the above mentioned project and has no objection to it in principle – particularly given that it is a community-supported effort – however, there are a few outstanding issues and questions that do not appear to have been addressed in the background documents accompanying this application.

The proponent has correctly stated that building a permanent road will prevent any further damage to the land caused by trails being re-routed when it gets too rough. While this is entirely true, it should also be noted that building a permanent, all-weather road, will result other problems that do not appear to have been considered by the proponent. Increased access by larger vehicles and greater numbers of people may result in increased pressure on the surrounding land and wildlife. There are a number of factors to consider such as roadside litter, garbage (and possibly sewage) collection and spill response (in the event of an accident).

These are issues that can be easily and inexpensively addressed through proper planning and forethought.

The key question in the reviewer's mind is: who will assume responsibility for this road and any unforeseen problems resulting from its construction? While INAC Water Resources has no objection this project proceeding, INAC strongly recommends that the NWB determine, with certainty, who will assume full responsibility for this road; including, but not necessarily restricted to, any associated problems such as those which have been described in this letter.

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