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Sahtu Land and Water Board

The Sahtu Land & Water Board is one of six boards of Public Government that were established by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). These boards provide for an integrated and coordinated system of land and water management in the Mackenzie Valley.

Under the Act, the Sahtu Land & Water Board regulates the use of land and water by issuing, amending, renewing and suspending land use permits and water licences on all crown, Sahtu lands and private lands. The Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, and the Northwest Territories Waters Act/Regulations are administered by the Board.

The Board's objective

The objective of the Sahtu Land and Water Board is to provide for conservation, development and utilization of the land and water resources of the settlement area in a manner that will provide the optimum benefit therefrom for present and future residents of the settlement area and the Mackenzie Valley and for all Canadians.

The Members

The five member Board includes two members nominated by the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, one member nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories and one member nominated by the Federal Government. All members of the Board, including the chair, are appointed by the Federal Minister.

2003/2004

The fiscal year 2003/2004 was the Board's fifth year of operation. There were 10 applications for Land Use Permits, which were approved, and seven applications where a Permit was not required. Also, 22 applications were received for Water Licences with 21 receiving Board approval plus one where a Licence was not required.

The Board's staff consists of eight positions, including Executive Director, Office Administrator, Financial Controller, Land/Resource Geographer, Hydrologist, Permit/Licence Clerk, Land Technician and Water Technician.

The Board held 11 meetings over the past fiscal year. These meetings were held in Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Tulita. Seven of these meetings were held by telephone conference.

Board objectives for the coming year include but are not limited to the following:

- To maintain an efficient and timely method of processing Land Use Permits and Water Licences; and
- To continue to develop a more effective communication process with Sahtu communities.

