



THE SAHTU SECRETARIAT INCORPORATED

P.O. Box 155,
Deline, NT X0E 0G0
Tel: (867) 589-4719, Fax: (867) 589-4908

February 14, 2021

Dr. Deborah Simmons
ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
P.O. Box 134
Tulít'a, NT Canada
X0E 0K0

director@srrb.nt.ca

Dear Dr. Simmons;

Re: Support for *Behdzi Ahda* First Nation Community Conservation Plan

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Sahtu Secretariat, Inc (SSI), the regional land claim body in the Central Mackenzie Valley.

SSI has reviewed the recent correspondence between Minister Shane Thompson, Environment & Natural Resources, and Ms. Camilla Tutcho, Chair of the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and we wish to express our full support for the *Behdzi Ahda* First Nation and its position on community conservation plans, Total Allowable Harvest and the role of community Renewable Resource Councils in determining community harvests.

SSI further notes that the January 29, 2021 letter from the Minister, and its nineteen page attachment raises a number of issues which we will require further time to review and then provide additional comments, responses and/or rebuttals.

For this reason, SSI encourages the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board to request an extension beyond February 15th in order for us to complete our analysis and provide our final comments.

Our position is that the people who have lived among the caribou for thousands of years are best able to make decisions concerning them and we encourage your Board to make a very strong case to Minister Thompson that the position of the *Behdzi Ahda* First Nation be respected by government.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ch McNeely". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ch" and the last name "McNeely" clearly distinguishable.

Charles McNeely
Chair

cc Minister Shane Thompson
Chief Wilbert Kochon
Joseph Kochon
SSI Board Members