



August 16, 2023

CAMILLA TUTCHO ACTING CHAIR SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCE BOARD

Dear Camilla Tutcho:

?ełets'ewéhkwę Godi (Living with Wildlife) - Predators and Competitors: Deline 2021 Virtual Public Listening (Hearing) Session Report and Reasons for Decisions and Recommendations

I would like to thank the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) for providing its Final Report, which was received on July 25, 2023.

Consistent with section 13.8.28 of the Sahtú Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, I have reviewed the Final Report with officials from the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) and am providing my Final Response. Please note that my approach to responding to the decisions and recommendations took into consideration the Sahtú Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, the NWT *Wildlife Act*, and the overarching wildlife co-management context and processes in place in the Northwest Territories.

In its Final Report, the SRRB did not incorporate the revisions that were provided for Recommendations 1.2 and 1.3 in my first Response on June 27, 2023. For both of these recommendations, I am maintaining the varied wording that was provided in my first Response on June 27, 2023, as my Final Response. I would like to take this opportunity to explain why I have chosen to maintain the varied wording.

Regarding Recommendation 1.2, as noted in my first Response, to the extent possible, ECC staff will continue to participate in and contribute to opportunities to learn from Sahtú communities when they have been invited to do so and resources allow. Staff value these opportunities to build strong connections and relationships across cultures and knowledge systems, which will help facilitate the effective co-management of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the NWT.

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There are considerable demands on existing wildlife research, monitoring and management budgets, but ECC staff will consider each request within the context of available resources as well as other priorities and requests. Participation in community camps and other learning opportunities are important to ECC, and efforts will be made to participate when possible.

The reasons set out above also apply to funding for facilitating cross-generational transfer of Dene/Métis ts'įlį (ways of life), náowerá (knowledge), and zeza (law) under Recommendation 1.3. Staff at ECC are always happy to provide support for these initiatives when we can. That support can be financial and/or in-kind support. The programs listed, including the Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP) and the Hunter Education Program, were suggested as opportunities to fund these initiatives if communities choose. For example, if a community identified that they wanted to allocate a portion of their CHAP funding to harvesters who were going to take young or inexperienced harvesters out on the land, that could meet the criteria for both the CHAP program and facilitating cross-generational transfer of Dene/Métis ts'įlį (ways of life), náowerá (knowledge), and zeza (law).

The GNWT has launched a webpage (https://www.gov.nt.ca/en/services/funding-programs) which serves as a directory to GNWT funding programs. This directory is easy to navigate and provides a filter function based on who is applying and the type of programming being applied for. ECC staff are always willing and available to discuss funding opportunities and assist communities in determining eligibility and applying for available funding programs.

Thank you for your continued support for the wise management and conservation of caribou.

Sincerely,

Shane Thompson

Minister

Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution list

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