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PUBLIC LISTENING UPDATE:

Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

Hearing Rules, Preliminary Questions, and Notice of Extension

Posted October 16, 2019

Hearing Rules Update

In collaboration with our Colville Lake partners, the ʔehdzo Got'ine Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB) has updated the process under the SRRB *Hearing Rules* to prepare for the January 2020 Public Listening Session and related activities. The updated *Hearing Rules* are posted on the SRRB's Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca.

Highlights of changes made to the rules include:

- The definition of “Hearing” is expanded to include one or more Public Listening Sessions.
- The Board is permitted to participate jointly or collaborate in a Collaborative Hearing with another organization responsible for the management of migratory or shared wildlife.
- The definition of Sahtú Organisations eligible to be a Party is expanded to account for new self-government organisations in our region.
- **The period to consider registering as a Party is extended to 30 days after a Public Notice is issued.** This allows time to ask questions and share additional information in considering whether and how to participate.
- The SRRB can decide to depart from the rules of procedure at any time in order to better respect and incorporate Sahtú cultural values, knowledge, customs and traditions.
- Four new clauses are added to the section on Translation to support more meaningful cross-cultural communication in Indigenous languages and English.
- A Party can request that certain evidence submitted to the Board, including Traditional Knowledge, remain confidential.

Preliminary Public Listening questions

The Public Listening Session on *Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting* is part of a five-part Hearing proceeding on the most effective way to conserve caribou. At the January 21-23 Session, Colville and the SRRB are asking the following key questions (which will be the ‘scope’ of the hearing):

1. What is the current status of caribou populations in the Sahtú Region, including ʔedə/ʔekwé (Bluenose West and Bluenose East barren-ground caribou), shúhtagəʔepé (Northern Mountain caribou), and tódzı (Boreal Woodland caribou)?

2. What is the most effective way to regulate harvesting of caribou and other wildlife?
3. What are Indigenous systems for Dene béré (country food) security and Dene ts'ı́ı́ (ways of life or cultural integrity) in the Sahtú region that promote caribou conservation?
4. How can a community conservation planning approach in the Sahtú region relate to other types of conservation plans and decisions about the same caribou herds in neighbouring regions?

Additional questions may be developed in the lead-up to the Public Listening Session, during the community planning workshop scheduled for November 2019.

There will also be an opportunity for parties to ask specific questions of one another in order to clarify some issues in advance of the January public listening session.

Deadline extension to register as a Party

In accordance with the revised SRRB *Hearing Rules*, the deadline to register as a Party has been extended to **November 1**. Parties will be able to make presentations at the Public Listening Session, contributing evidence for consideration by the Board in its decisions about wildlife conservation in the Sahtú region.

We encourage Sahtú Organisations, collaborative management partners in neighbouring regions, and the public to consider their interest in presenting at the Public Listening Session in light of the Preliminary Questions listed above. In addition, Colville's *Dehlá Got'ı́ne Tseduweh ǰade ǰahǰah* will be available for review on **October 21**.

We also invite submission of other proposals related to the topic of *Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting* from Sahtú Organisations, governments and the public.

Organisations or individuals that do not register as a Party will be able to attend the Public Listening Session and speak during the "Presentations or Comments from the Public" section of the agenda.

How to register

Applications for party status are reviewed and approved by the SRRB. The Board will accept Party Status Registrations until **November 1**. Registrations can be submitted in several ways:

- The online form provided at the Public Registry, www.srrb.nt.ca.
- Email info@srrb.nt.ca
- Fax 867-588-3324
- Call the SRRB office at 867-588-4040

Those who wish to register as a Party are asked to provide the following information.

- What is your name?

- If you are representing an organization, what is your role in the organization?
- What community are you from?
- What is your phone number, email and/or fax and mailing address?
- How will you or your organization be directly affected by the Public Listening Session on *Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting?*.
- If you're not directly affected by the outcome of the Public Listening Session, why are you interested in participating?
- Are you planning on presenting at the Public Listening Session?
- Do you plan to submit any documents or written evidence (including slide presentation materials) prior to the hearing?

Contact Information

For more information about the *Hearing Rules*, the preliminary questions, and registration for Party status, don't hesitate to contact us!

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