

Dr. Deborah Simmons  
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board  
P.O. Box 134  
Tulita, NT X0E 0K0

March 1, 2021

***Re Support for Dehlá Got'ıne Community Conservation Plan***

Dear Dr Simmons,

We are writing on behalf of the Fort Good Hope Renewable Resources Council ("RRC") about the *Public Listening: Sahtú Ragóʔa and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting*.

We want to let you know that we fully support what Dehlá Got'ıne is saying in their *Critique of Minister's Response to the Board Report and Reasons for Decision*, which was filed February 25, 2021.

We acknowledge the work that Dehlá Got'ıne has put in to their Community Conservation Plan. It is a plan that comes from our Sahtú Dene culture and we think it will work. We applaud the SRRB for endorsing it.

We are disappointed that the Minister has decided to vary on the SRRB's decision. We are especially dismayed that they seem to want to replace the Dehlá Got'ıne plan by imposing a colonial model of harvesting regulation.

At a time when the Government of the Northwest Territories ("GNWT") is talking about implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ("UNDRIP"), this kind of paternalistic intervention from the Minister, as we see in the case of the Dehlá Got'ıne Community Conservation Plan, is very troubling.

The UNDRIP, among other things, recognizes the following:

- **Article 4:** recognizes the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs
- **Article 5:** recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions
- **Article 24:** recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, animals and minerals
- **Article 29:** recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

- **Article 32:** recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

Each of these articles supports Dehlá Got'ine's proposal. What Dehlá Got'ine is doing is trying to go back to a traditional Sahtú Dene way of managing the caribou. We support what they are doing because it works. It has worked for thousands of years.

We think it will work better than the system of tags and Total Allowable Harvest that the Minister wants to implement. That system has not worked well and is not effective at conserving caribou. We agree with Dehlá Got'ine that the system must be replaced with the Community Conservation Plan.

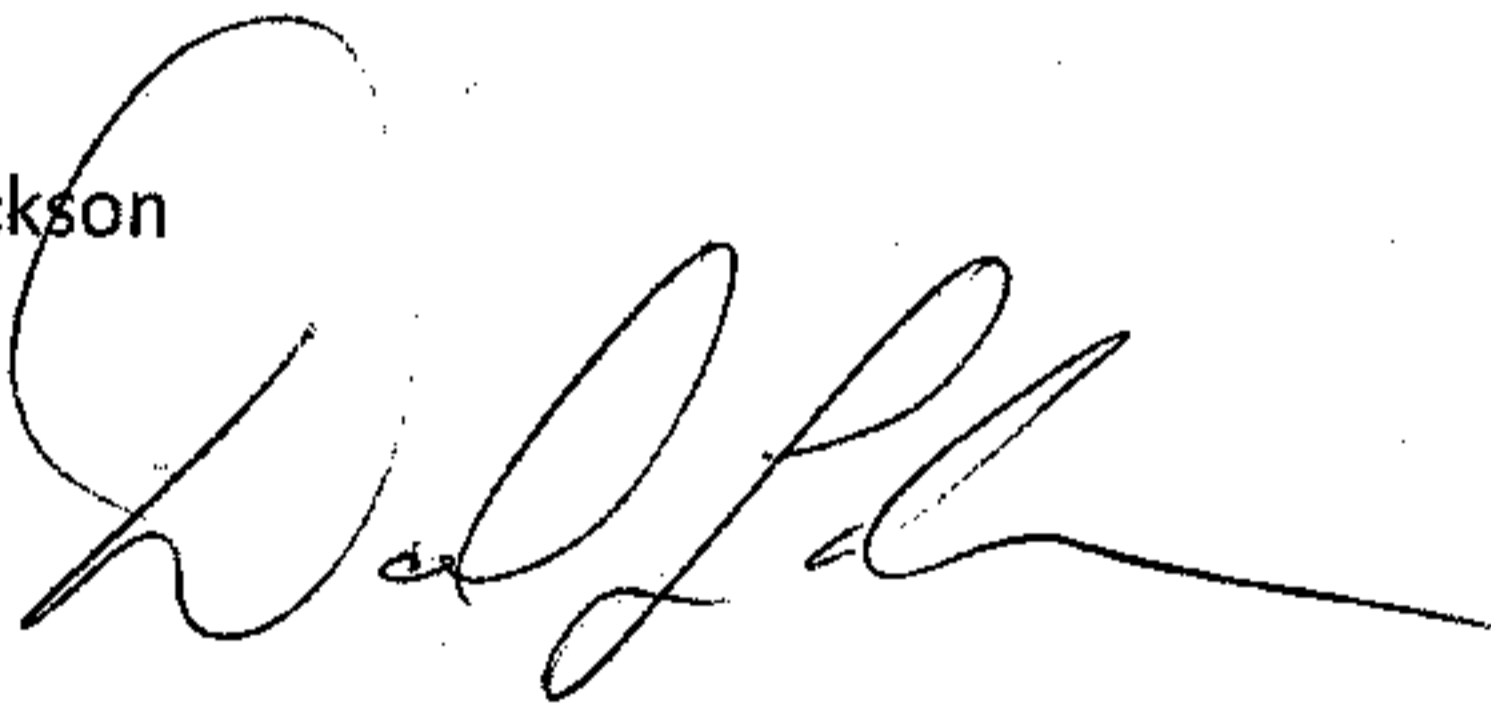
As set out in UNDRIP, Dehlá Got'ine has a right to implement their Community Conservation Plan, and the Minister, under Article 29, has an obligation to support them.

We want to say especially that we disagree with the Minister that they are somehow protecting the Treaty harvesting rights of other Sahtú participants by going against the Dehlá Got'ine plan. We know that our Treaty harvesting rights are subject to regulation according to Dene law, and that is exactly what the Dehlá Got'ine plan is implementing. We do not agree with the Minister that the Dehlá Got'ine plan is an infringement of our Treaty rights.

We are asking the SRRB to reject the Minister's attempt to vary your initial decision in this proceeding. We also hope the Minister will reconsider their opposition to Dehlá Got'ine's plan.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Jackson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Jackson', written over the printed name.