

COLVILLE LAKE RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL

P.O Box 53, Colville Lake, NT X0E 1L0

July 19, 2016

Michael Neyelle, Chair
?ehdzo Got'ine Gots'e Nakedi
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
PO Box 134, Tulita, NT, X0E 0K0

Dear ?ehdzo Got'ine Gots'e Nakedi:

Re: Supplementary Submission – Exemption for Arake Tue

As the Interim President of the Colville Renewable Resources Council (“Colville RRC”) I am providing this is submitting this supplementary evidence to the SRRB *Public Hearing on Management of Bluenose East ?ekwé (Barren-Ground Caribou)*. This submission regarding Arake Tue in support of the Colville request to exempt the area of Arake Tue and Dela Got'ine harvesters from the limitation of the harvest of Bluenose East caribou.

I am a member of the Behdzi Ahda’ First Nation, and a beneficiary of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Agreement. I was raised on the land by my grandfather. I have never attended a residential school.

I am also the Band Manager for the Behdzi Ahda’ First Nation and I have been for the past twenty three years (since 1993).

I was a negotiator for Colville Lake when the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was being negotiated. I have a very thorough understanding of my community, the community members, the land, harvesting of caribou, and Dela Got'ine responsibilities under our traditional Dela Got'ine laws and the SDMCLCA.

Our community was not consulted by the Deline RRC or ENR when they developed their conservation plans for submission to SRRB. The consultation at the SRRB Hearing does not meet the standard that Deline RRC and ENR had to meet when they developed their BNE conservation plans.

My grandfather and other elders have passed on many stories to me which indicate that our people – the Dela Got'ine – have been travelling to Arake Tue for thousands of years. There is direct evidence of Dela Got'ine use and occupation of Arake Tue, including an ancient coral or fence used to herd caribou into to be harvested.

Annually, each September for the past Twenty six years (since 1990 people from our community have travelled to Arake Tue to teach our youth how to harvest caribou according to traditional Dela Gotine laws, estimate the caribou population, harvest caribou to determine the health of the herd, check the conditions of the land (vegetation, water, and insects), monitor the predator population and monitor other animals that use the same land as the caribou, such as the muskox. This is a continuation of the ancient practice of our people travelling to this region to manage and hunt caribou. To deprive us of this practice would not only be a failure of consultation but an outright breach of our Aboriginal right that must be justified on a much broader scale than just consultation.

Our harvesters do not overhunt the herd. Fishing nets are set at Arake Tue so that caribou is not the only source of food for the Dela Got'ine that gather at Arake Tue. The annual harvest of caribou at Arake Tue is respectful and sustainable as harvesters follow our traditional Dela Got'ine laws of harvesting to meet only the immediate subsistence needs of their family as per the Dela Got'ine relationship with caribou. This means harvesting only one or two caribou at a time. There is no other way to harvest caribou as there are no refrigerators at Arake Tue, the meat must be immediately consumed or preserved by the time consuming process of dry meat making so as not to spoil.

Our harvesters travel by foot around Arake Tue with a radius of approximately 100 km.

Our current practices regarding the monitoring of the harvest is:

- 1) to teach our youth and others how to sustainably harvest caribou in a manner that follows our traditional Dela Gotine caribou laws of:
 - i) only harvest as many caribou that will meet the harvester's immediate need for subsistence; and
 - ii) all parts of the caribou are to be taken and utilized, everything from the hide to the hoofs.
- 2) if any Colville harvesters see a harvester violating one of the traditional Dela Gotine caribou laws, the harvester is no longer welcome to harvest on Dela Gotine land until the harvester has been taught how to harvest in a manner that respect the Dela Gotine relationship with caribou; and
- 3) serious or major violations of traditional Dela Gotine caribou laws regarding subsistence and sustainable harvesting of caribou, such as meat wastage, are reported to ENR wildlife officers.

Our harvesters hunt less today than they did in the past, as is the past, each harvester had a dog team of at least four (4) dogs travelling with them which they fed fish and caribou. As well, in

the past, each harvester primarily relied on the caribou as the means of food, clothing, and tools, as there was no access to store bought food, clothing or tools. If they did not harvest caribou at Arake Tue there were real threats of death due to starvation over the winter. Today, the harvesters at Arake Tue each have one dog or less and the threat of death due starvation is low.

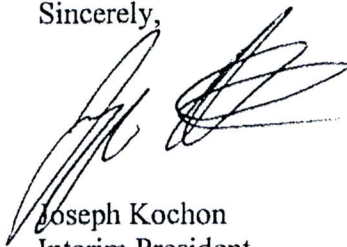
Today, for our families that do not have the caribou to supplement their diet, there remains an increase in malnutrition and decrease in overall health and wellbeing as the cost of beef, pork and chicken is high and filled with antibiotics and preservatives.

The average income for people our members is extremely low, particularly with regard to the very high cost of living in the North. We therefore have remained a very traditional community that lives very much by our ancient practices and ways. There are high rates of poverty in Colville. For those people who have a job, the wage economy simply supplements the primary hunting, fishing and trapping economy which has been vital to our survival as a people for many thousands of years.

Colville is a unique community and there is no other community that harvests caribou at Arake Tue.

For the above reasons and as outlined in the Colville submission dated May 13, 2016, which are unique to Colville, Colville makes this supplementary submission, that the Dela Got'ine, Ayoni Keh beneficiaries and those authorized by the Colville RRC must be exempt from the TAH for BNE within a 100 km radius around Arake Tue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph Kochon', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Kochon
Interim President
Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council