



**ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ**  
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*Delivered via email*

June 25, 2023

**RE: ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ (Living with Wildlife) – Predators and Competitors: Déljné 2021 Virtual Public Listening (Hearing) Session Report and Reasons for Decisions and Recommendations**

Dear Minister Thompson:

On behalf of the ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB), I would like to thank you for your June 27, 2023, response to the SRRB Report and Reasons for Decision on the ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ (Living with Wildlife) – Predators and Competitors: Déljné 2021 Virtual Public Listening (Hearing) Session, sent May 2, 2023 (PLS 2 Report).

This report along with your letter concludes the second of the five-part PLS series adopted by the SRRB to address the central question, “What is the most effective way to conserve caribou?” The Déljné 2021 Public Listening Session focused on the question, “What should people’s role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?”

The Board members who presided over the Déljné 2021 Virtual Public Listening Session met and considered the Minister’s June 27, 2023 response. We are pleased that the Minister has accepted Recommendations 1.1, 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. We look forward to the results of implementing these recommendations, which we expect will strengthen Dene/Métis knowledge in the Sahtú region and help focus research on the effects of predation and competition on caribou.

Additionally, we commend the Minister’s recognition of the importance of Dene/Métis ts’ijl (ways of life), náoweré (knowledge), and ᑕᕐᕈᕈᕐ (law) which, in the Board’s view, are integral to

honourable implementation of the land claim and to our shared goal of ensuring the well-being of caribou and people in the Sahtú region.

In the spirit of working towards successful co-management, we are responding to the Minister's suggestions and input on Recommendations 1.2 and 1.3 and Decision 3.1 in the PLS 2 Hearing Report.

We have considered the Minister's input on Recommendations 1.2 and 1.3. The SRRB would be pleased for ECC to look for opportunities for additional funding to facilitate staff attendance at community camps and facilitate the cross-generational transfer of Dene/Métis ts'jli (ways of life), náoweré (knowledge), and ɁeɁa (law). We have noted the Minister's suggestion to reach out directly to the federal government for support. However, the Board has chosen not to incorporate the Minister's specific revisions into its Recommendations. We explain our reasons below.

### **Recommendation 1.2**

Recommendation 1.2 follows on Recommendation 1.1, and both Recommendations are based on Findings 1.7 and 1.8 of the PLS Report:

#### **Finding 1.7**

The SRRB finds that community parties have invited ECC and other co-management partners to participate in community camps; ECC, in particular, has shown recognition of the value of such opportunities.

#### **Finding 1.8**

The SRRB finds that participation in on-the-land activities helps participants to learn about Dene/Métis ts'jli (ways of life), náoweré (knowledge), and ɁeɁa (law), and helps promote good working relationships.

The SRRB made Recommendation 1.1, which the Minister accepted, to recommend communities to invite co-management partners to participate in community camps to facilitate opportunities to learn about Dene/Métis ts'jli (ways of life), náoweré (knowledge), and ɁeɁa (law), and to foster mutual understanding and relationships. Recommendation 1.2 is intended to focus on ECC's prioritization of current funding to facilitate attendance at these camps, particularly for its staff. The SRRB views participation in these camps as crucial to fostering mutual understanding and relationships. The SRRB views ECC acceptance of these invitations as distinct from seeking opportunities to increase financial resources.

### **Recommendation 1.3**

Recommendation 1.3 is based on Findings 1.9 - 1.11, which focus on the importance of youth leadership and the transfer of intergenerational knowledge, as well as Finding 1.12, which focuses on the need for more funding.

#### Finding 1.12

The SRRB finds that while some support is available from the Government, it is insufficient to provide youth with the opportunities needed to learn from elders about Dene/Métis ts'įłı (ways of life), náowerá (knowledge), and ɁɁa (law).

In the letter sent June 27, you mention several initiatives to support Sahtú Nę K'adı Ke (Keepers of the Land) as well as the Community Harvesters Assistance program and a Hunter Education program which you mention could be modified and adapted to support youth training. As stated in the Délıne 2021 Notice to Parties regarding Issues, Deferred Issues, Procedural Guidance and Agenda, sent December 17, 2021, issues concerning Hunter Education will be considered at a future PLS. The SRRB's recommendation is intended to invite ECC to prioritize funding initiatives that will directly support cross-generational transfer of Dene/Métis ts'įłı (ways of life), náowerá (knowledge), and ɁɁa (law) along with youth leadership initiatives in the Sahtú region.

#### **Decision 3.1**

With respect to Decision 3.1, we welcome the Minister's continued support for Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá (Planning for the Future – PFF) and acceptance of the Board's decision to release the Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá (Planning for the Future – PFF) Policy and Guidance (2023). We look forward to continued work on Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá (Planning for the Future – PFF) in the continuation of the PLS series.

The SRRB understands that communication and cooperation are key to successful co-management. We anticipate that communities may invite ECC staff to attend some meetings concerning the making of plans, and encourage communities to do so, but recognize that invitations must come from the communities.

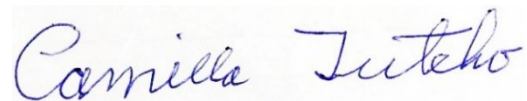
The SRRB considers Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá (Planning for the Future – PFF) to be a viable conservation approach that is rights-compliant and a more effective alternative to harvest limits. The PLS series was conceived to investigate and address wider-scale issues that affect caribou, including relationships with predators and competitors, in support of developing caribou conservation approaches that reflect and respect community-based, Dene/Métis knowledge, customs and practices. Developing Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá (Planning for the Future – PFF) is central to that approach.

Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá (Planning for the Future – PFF) is an iterative process and will continue to improve as we work together. With that in mind, the SRRB will take into consideration feedback about how to best explain the Minister's role in how Hıdó Gogha Sénégots'įá written plans are made.

To clarify, the SRRB acknowledges that the Minister's role with respect to the SRRB's approval of PFF written plans is the Minister's ultimate authority to accept, reject, or vary a Board decision to approve a written plan. As agreed, and accepted, in decisions made at the conclusion of the first PLS, the SRRB will review and approve Hı́dó Gogha Sénégots'ı́á (Planning for the Future – PFF) written plans and when approved, forward them to the Minister for acceptance. This division of roles avoids duplicating work, respects the Minister's role as having ultimate responsibility for wildlife and the SRRB's unique role as the instrument created under the SDMCLCA with responsibility for wildlife management and ensuring wildlife is managed in accordance with the agreement and its objectives.

As we complete the second PLS and work towards future Public Listening Sessions, we look forward to continued collaboration with our co-management partners to support the well-being of caribou and effective caribou conservation.

Máhsi,



Camilla Tutcho, Acting Chair for the Délı́ne Virtual Public Listening (Hearing) Session