



PUBLIC LISTENING UPDATE:

Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

Round 2 Information Requests to the Parties

Notice to Sahtú leaders, Parties, and neighbours, **December 20, 2019**

Background

This update provides Round 2 Information Requests based on information received from the Parties to date related to the central question of the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session: **“What is the most effective way to regulate the harvest of caribou?”** The deadline for all responses to Round 2 IRs is **January 13, 2020**.

A series of Round 1 Information Requests were issued on behalf of confirmed Parties to the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session on December 6, 2019. To date, responses have been received from Colville Lake (Colville), Ross River (Tu Lidlini) Dena Council (RRDC), and NWT Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). These responses can be found on the Colville 2020 Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca, in the Documents tab, in folder 2.0 Proposals for Decision and Supporting Documentation. The SRRB welcomes additional responses from confirmed Parties by or before **January 13**.

Also included with these documents is a letter received from the NWT Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC [NWT]) regarding the Public Listening Session. This letter is especially relevant to Information Request 2.3 from the Pehdzo Got'ine Gots'ę Nákedi (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB) regarding coordination of hunting regulation across regions, and articulates concern about timelines for decision-making arising from the Public Listening proceeding, and interim conservation measures for barren-ground caribou.

What's in this Update

- Round 2 Information Requests
- Update on Confirmed Parties
- Timelines

Round 2 Information Requests

Each of the following IRs is directed either to all Parties, or to one or more individual Parties. The source of the request is listed in italics after the IR. All documents referenced are available on the Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca. Please provide responses to the following questions to the SRRB by or before **January 13**, orally at 867-588-4040 or in writing to info@srrb.nt.ca. **If you have existing document(s) that address one or more questions, please provide the documents and highlight the relevant section in your response.**

All responses will be posted on the Colville 2020 Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca, except in special circumstances when a Party wishes to make a Motion requesting that confidential, proprietary or sensitive information (including Traditional Knowledge) be protected under Section 12.21 of the SRRB's Hearing Rules.

Round 2 IR Topics

- Topic 1: Public Listening Process and Timelines
- Topic 2: Traditional Harvesting Practices
- Topic 3: Hunter Education
- Topic 4: Transboundary Agreements

Topic 1: Traditional Harvesting Practices

IRs to All Parties

- 1.1 Could you provide examples of traditional caribou conservation measures used in your community? (*ENR*)
- 1.2 Could you describe the traditional harvesting practices of your community as they relate to harvesting cows vs bulls or different age classes of animals throughout the year? (*ENR*)

Topic 2: Hunter Education

IRs to All Parties

- 2.1 During the collaborative drafting of the Wildlife Act, which included representatives from Aboriginal governments and wildlife co-management boards, it was heard that a hunter education course should be developed and made available to all hunters in the NWT. As of January 1, 2020, the course will be a legislated requirement for new hunters in the NWT. It is online, free and available now (www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/hunter-education). Although Sahtú rights holders are exempt from the requirement to take the course, we previously heard a desire for Sahtú youth and new or inexperienced hunters to take the course. ENR can make these courses available in-person, would you be interested in this style of delivery?

Topic 3: Transboundary Agreements

IR to Délı̨nę and Colville

- 3.1 As discussed in the SRRB's 2016 Bluenose East ʔekwé Hearing Report, community conservation plans are based on principles of self-regulation. These plans are means for communities to develop their own approaches to caribou conservation while recognizing the need for accountability and sharing across boundaries, as outlined in the *Taking Care of Caribou* plan for Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East ʔədə/ʔekwé (barren-ground caribou) and associated Action Plans. However, Wildlife Management authorities from neighbouring regions have expressed concerns that to date, community conservation planning and self-regulation processes have not complied with the spirit and intent of cross-regional agreements for sharing harvest information, which are consistent with the obligation to collect and provide harvesting data outlined in the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (SDMCLCA)¹. There is concern about lack of information on how

¹ “Renewable Resources Councils shall participate in the collection and provision, to government and the Board, of local harvesting data and other locally available data respecting wildlife and wildlife habitat.” (SDMCLCA 13.9.6).

harvest data is collected, leading to lack of confidence in the quality of the data. Please clarify how you plan to address these concerns. (SRRB)

IR to Colville

3.2 The *Dehlá Got'ıne ʔədə Plan* (October 21, 2019) recognizes the obligation under the Sahtú land claim agreement to provide harvesting data, and outlines how this will happen in Section 3.3 of the Plan. The Plan notes that provision of data would be in accordance with a Data Sharing Protocol with the SRRB and GNWT. Please share the Data Sharing Protocol for consideration by the Parties in assessing Colville's commitment to providing harvesting data. (SRRB)

IRs to ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB)

- 3.3 The *Taking Care of Caribou* plan (2014) includes a “Management Actions” table with a section on harvest actions to be taken depending on consensus agreements regarding herd status. How does the SRRB plan to comply with transboundary agreements to share monthly Sahtú beneficiary and non-beneficiary harvest information with a degree of confidence and information on how the numbers were collected? (WMAC [NWT])
- 3.4 How is the SRRB informing communities about the *Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan* and associated action plans? The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is invited to the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management's annual status meeting and contributes scientific monitoring information to the monitoring table. What process does the SRRB use to populate regional information into the monitoring table? (ENR)
- 3.5 How does the SRRB ensure that there is harmonization between any community conservation plans and broader management planning, for example with other co-management boards or across jurisdictional boundaries? (ENR)

Topic 4: Public Listening Process and Timelines

IR to All Parties

- 4.1 In considering the capacity of the SRRB and the Parties, and the experience of preparing for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, do you support a revised timeline for Public Listening Sessions with only one Session per year, with a schedule to prepare for each Session in modest steps throughout the year, and completion of Reasons for Decision report by March 31? Please comment on the following timeline, topics and hosting communities, keeping in mind the benefits of holding sessions during winter road season to maximize participation:
- 2021 – Session 2: Knowledge of Caribou and Landscapes (Délıne)
 - 2022 – Session 3: Caribou and Predators (Fort Good Hope)
 - 2023 – Session 4: Wildfires, Climate Change and Caribou Habitat (Tulıt'a)
 - 2024 – Session 5: The Sahtú Mixed Economy and Caribou Conservation (N. Wells)
 - 2025 – SRRB Final Wrap-up Hearing Report
- 4.2 The SRRB recognizes that evaluation of each Public Listening Session and advance planning and scoping for future Sessions will support fulsome evidence gathering, fairness, and

impactful decision-making. The Board hopes to launch Session 2 as early as possible in 2020. Please provide comments on the following preliminary draft timeline for Session 2, based on your experience with Colville 2020 Public Listening Session activities and timelines.

Preliminary Draft Timeline for Public Listening Session 2

Funding proposals for Public Listening Session 2	February 15, 2020
“Save the date” Public Listening Session Notice	February 15, 2020
Delivery of Public Listening budget	February 15, 2020
Confirmation of CIRNAC supplemental funding	May 1, 2020
Formal Notice of Public Listening	May 15, 2020
Deadline for Registration	June 12, 2020
Identification of Parties	June 19, 2020
Issuance of Round 1 Information Requests (IRs)	June 19, 2020
Pre-Public Listening Teleconference 1	June 26, 2020
Regional/Community Preparation Meetings and Workshops	June 29-Sept 15, 2020
Submission of Proposals and Round 1 Responses to IRs	October 1, 2020
Issuance of Round 2 IRs	October 9, 2020
Responses to Round 2 IRs	November 9, 2020
Issuance of Round 3 IRs (if needed)	November 13, 2020
Responses to Round 3 IRs	December 15, 2020
Deadline for Written Presentations	January 18, 2021
Public Listening Session	January 26-28, 2021
Deadline for Final Written Arguments	February 15, 2021
SRRB Board Decisions Meeting	February 26, 2021
SRRB Report with Reasons for Decision Released	March 31, 2021

IR to ?ehdzo Got’ine Gots’é Nákedí (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB)

4.3 Clarify the length of time required for the completion of results from Public Listening Sessions, and how the SRRB intends to be engaged in the management of barren-ground caribou herds in the interim. (WMAC [NWT])

Confirmation of Additional Parties

The SRRB Board reviewed additional registrations to participate in the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session as Parties as of December 20. Two additional Parties were confirmed: Sahtú Dene Council and Sahtú Youth Network. This brings the list of confirmed Parties to 15. The SRRB will continue to consider additional registrations.

Confirmed Parties

Listed in alphabetical order.

- Colville Renewable Resources Council and Behdzi Ahda First Nation
- Dehcho First Nations
- Délíne Got’ine Government and Délíne ?ehdzo Got’ine (Renewable Resources Council)
- Fort Good Hope ?ehdzo Got’ine
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association
- Norman Wells ?ehdzo Got’ine
- NWT Environment and Natural Resources
- Ross River (Tu Lidlini) Dena Council
- Sahtú Dene Council
- Sahtú Youth Network
- Tulít’a Dene Band
- Tulít’a Land Corporation

Timelines

Submission of Responses to Round 2 Information Requests	January 13
Pre-Public Listening Teleconference #2	January 13
Deadline for Written Presentations	January 17
Public Listening in Colville Lake	January 21-23
Deadline for Final Written Arguments	February 10
SRRB Report with Reasons for Decision Released	March 31

Contact Information

Don't hesitate to contact us with questions and suggestions!

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