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***Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
accepts community conservation plans
to regulate caribou harvest,
sets aside total allowable harvest***



Colville 2020
Public Listening

(Sahtú Region, NWT, November 9, 2020) - The Pełhdzo Got'Inę Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB) is pleased to announce the release of *Sahtú Ragóꝁa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting: Colville 2020 Public Listening (Hearing) Report and Reasons for Decision*.

This nearly 200-page document is the result of the SRRB's review of evidence shared by 19 parties to the January 21-23, 2020 proceeding, focusing on the question, "What is the most effective way to regulate the harvest of caribou?"

The 8 decisions and 18 recommendations in the report highlight the role of Indigenous knowledge, language and practices in caribou conservation. Together, they promise to overcome the atmosphere of conflict that has long surrounded caribou conservation, and address principles of reconciliation called for by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"The board sees community conservation planning as a good way for planning how to manage caribou, and the plans need to be managed by the people who live in those areas," says George Barnaby, a past advisor to the SRRB who chaired the Colville Lake Listening Sessions.

The SRRB has decided to set aside the provisions for establishing a total allowable harvest laid out in the land claim agreement, in favour of culturally-appropriate community conservation plans. Given the range of evidence, as detailed in the report, the board has reconfirmed that a community-based approach is the most effective approach to caribou conservation. The report lays out steps toward approval of two community plans presented at the Public Listening Session: Colville's *Dehlá Got'Inę ȷꝁꝁꝁ (Caribou) Plan* and *Ts'ıduweh ȷꝁꝁꝁ ȷꝁꝁꝁ (Ancient Caribou Law)*, and Délıne's updated *Belare Wıle Gots'ę ȷꝁkwé (Caribou for All Time)* plan.

The Colville 2020 proceeding was the first in a series of Public Listening Sessions in the Sahtú Region addressing the question, "What is the most effective way to conserve caribou?"

The second Public Listening Session will be co-hosted by the SRRB and Délıne in 2021. It will address questions about caribou conservation related to concerns about predators such as wolves, and competitors such as muskoxen.

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