



Dene National / Assembly of First Nations  
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February 18, 2021

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

Dear Dr. Simmons and Chief Kochon;

**Re: Support for Behdzi Ahda First Nation Community Conservation Plan**

Dene Nation fully supports the Behdzi Ahda First Nation and its community conservation plans and the responsibility of the community Renewable Resource Council to determine community harvests within the Total Allowable Harvest as defined in Sahtu Rago (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Minister Shane Thompson of Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) on January 29, 2021 sent a letter with a nineteen-page attachment that the Sahtu Secretariat Inc (SSI) has requested more time to review and provide comments, responses and/or rebuttals. Dene Nation supports the SSI request for additional time and that the February 15, 2021 deadline be extended.

Dene Nation believes that Dene and their Knowledge about caribou garnered over thousands of years is fundamental for caribou management and that the Behdzi Ahda First Nation community conservation plan must be respected and endorsed by ENR of the GNWT. I encourage you to support this plan to Minister Thompson.

Mahsi Cho

Norman Yakeleya  
Dene National  
AFN Regional Chief, NWT

Cc Chief Wilbert Kochon  
Minister Shane Thompson  
Joseph Kochon  
SSI Board Members