



Deline Renewable Resource Council

P.O Box 163

Deline, NT X0E0G0

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March 07,2021

Attention:

Executive Director
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
P.O. Box 134
Tulita, NT X0E 0K0

Re Support for Dehlá Got'ıne Community Conservation Plan

Dear Sahtu , ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı Members,

The Délıne ʔehdzo Got'ıne (Deline Renewable Resources Council, (DRRC), the Deline ʔOhda K'aowe Ke' (DAKK) and the Deline ʔEhkwe Working Committee (DEWC) Members, Elders Council **Founding Members of the 1972(F.F.H.T.A.)** wish to express their continued support to the ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, SRRB) in the future Public Listening Sessions on the subject: *Sahtú Ragóʔa and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting* proceeding.

Members have now had a chance to Review the document submitted by Dehlá Got'ıne on February 25, 2021, entitled *Critique of Minister's Response to the Board Report and Reasons for Decision*. Members want to let the Board and Minister know that we support what Dehlá Got'ıne is stating.

Dehlá Got'ıne has put together a well written Community Conservation Plan that should be supported and implemented by the Ministers office.

Dehlá Got'ıne's plan is based on traditional Sahtú Dene, laws of harvesting and hunting since time immemorial before modern treaty's were bestowed on us as Sahtúot'ıne people. Dene



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people know how to regulate harvesting within their traditional usage area/ region we occupy to say different is very concerning to our traditional believe systems in particular Dene Law. We have always known how to manage our harvest and respect what the lands have to offer us and in return we prosper as a distinct and unique cultural system that can teach others our ways and practices of harvesting and respect for our Lands and Wildlife. What Dehlá Got'ıne is doing is just formalizing the ways that we have been taught through out History of our Dene people.

A big percentage of our Community Members/Beneficiaries within the Sahtu Region disagree with the Ministers response and reasons for decisions. When the Ministers office insists on pushing the TAH on DENE People by issuing a hunting tag system or TAH within the SAHTU is not a good Governance call as we seek to Manage our Livelihood and save our cultural identity through Conservation Planning. The hunting tag system is not how Dene people do things. It makes things more complicated than they need to be. We have traditional dene Laws that are and should be adopted by this Government as a way and a means to Manage our Social Identity and Social well being for future generations of Dene Peoples and Harvesters

Dehlá Got'ıne is proposing to have a system where the Colville RRC gives permission to hunters who want to harvest in their local area. That is the system that we had traditionally. Not only is it an effective way of conserving wildlife. It is also about hunting safely: it is safer for the people in the local community to know about who is out on the land hunting.

We also disagree with the Minister when they say that Dehlá Got'ıne's proposal is an infringement on the Treaty harvesting rights of other Sahtú land claim participants. We have always known that our right to hunt is subject to Dene law. What Dehlá Got'ıne is proposing is an implementation of Dene law. It does not infringe our Treaty harvesting rights.

We are asking the SRRB to reject the Minister's attempt to change your initial decision about the Dehlá Got'ıne plan. We are also asking the Minister to change their position as well.

Yours sincerely,

Dolphus Baston,
DRRC, President.



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Reference to Elders Meeting of January 2020, 05.

Dora Blondin – Dene Hunting Laws in Deline was very strong in the past but today it is not as strong, we need to continue to work on Deline's Caribou Conservation Plan. We need a **Plan** for the community to work on **Hide's**, making **Drymeat, Pemmican and Bone Fat**.

Alphonse Takazo – Deline needs to take the lead on Wildlife harvesting and teaching of the Youths. ENR should not tell Deline how to harvest or how to teach our youths. We need to invite ENR to Deline and let them know that we still need their support and expertise plus funding to harvest Muskox and tanning of Muskox hide for womens. **Drinking Water** needs to be address with **DGG**, especially **Water Tanks** in the Deline homes, **Drainage Ditches** that have been constructed around the community of Deline and the **Dock** area by the **Water Intake Plant** should be sampled for traces of **Toxin's** and any other minerals it might contain. Reason for this request is because of the many sickness that our people suffered since Water started being delivered to homes.

Caribou Research Resolution

Whereas

1. The Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) of the Sahtú Region are concerned that knowledge and stewardship role of our people is not being properly respected and accommodated in caribou research and management – traditional knowledge is the missing piece.
2. As Sahtu Dene and Metis harvesters, our relationship with caribou is part of who we are.
3. There are many questions that need to be worked on about caribou populations and health and community harvesting practices, especially in the context of increasing resource development.
4. Sahtu Dene and Metis elders and harvesters do not support caribou collaring as a research method, since it is disrespectful to the caribou and affects caribou health.
5. According to Section 13.9.6 of the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, 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.”
6. According to Section 13.8.40 of the land claim, “wildlife research or harvesting studies conducted in the settlement area by government or by the Board or with government assistance shall directly involve Renewable Resources Councils and participant harvesters to the greatest extent possible.”
7. The SRRB and NWT Environment and Natural Resources must renew their commitment to fulfill the land claim responsibility to directly involve RRCs and

participant harvesters in caribou and other wildlife research, since we've been pushed aside for a long time.

Be It Resolved That

1. The Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) adopt traditional knowledge and Dene law as the leading edge of caribou and harvesting knowledge and law that will guide all efforts to protect the animals.
2. The SRRB and RRCs should jointly support caribou traditional knowledge and harvesting research as well as appropriate scientific research that does not disrespect the animals or harm them in any way, benefits both the caribou and the communities, and helps to maintain and strengthen our relationships with caribou.
3. The SRRB, ENR and RRCs develop a joint memorandum of understanding about our collaborative role in designing (including development of funding proposals), implementing and interpreting caribou and harvesting research.
4. Caribou and harvesting research activities must involve youth to ensure that they are able to use knowledge well as our future providers, caribou stewards and leaders.