



May 11, 2017

Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
Attn: Joe Tetlichij, Chair  
PO Box 31723  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L3

Dear Mr. Tetlichij;

This is in reply to your letter dated March 8, 2017 requesting a response from the Parties, on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) recommendation that the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH) be considered in the Green Zone - above 115,000 caribou.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is in agreement with PCMBs recommendations that the PCH is in the Green Zone and reiterates the Green Zone Harvest Management Plan actions Harvest Management Plan (HMP) - page 20:

- Harvest only the amount needed;
- Licensed hunters receive a maximum of two bull tags;
- Shooting will be accurate and wounded animals will be retrieved; and
- Parties will collect rigorous and verifiable harvest data, to be provided before the Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM).

GTC has the following comments regarding concerns raised during the last PCMB AHM held in Inuvik:

- The population computer model – a demonstration is requested to accurately estimate with a high level of confidence, prior to the labeling 'one of the best science-based tools to help understand how the herd is doing'. There is also mention of combining other information into the equation for the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee (PCTC) assessment and recommendations. Local Traditional Knowledge should also be acknowledged in its contribution to the PCTC understanding of the PCH.
- Draft Dempster Highway hunting rights pamphlets, maps and proposed wording for highway signage regarding Dempster Highway hunting rights were presented at the Annual Harvesters Meeting. GTC looks forward to reviewing this information package and forwarding their recommendations.
- The estimated Canadian harvest is approximately 2% of the 2013 population estimate, based on this information GTC agrees that the current Canadian harvest is not a major



concern. GTC also acknowledges the PCMB's recognition that cow harvest is not of concern, when herd is in Green Zone.

GTC is committed to the PCH HMP and looks forward to working with the PCMB on the following recommendations and concerns.

1. The development of the Native User Agreements and PCMB commitment to help facilitate the development of these agreements.
2. The review of the 'Sale, Trade and Barter Guidelines' and report back to the PCMB on or before the 2018 AHM.
3. Participate in the drafting and updating of the Dempster Highway hunting rights pamphlets and associated proposed wording for highway signage as it relates to harvesting rights.
4. Review the Committee on Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessment of barren-ground caribou (BGC) in Canada as threatened. PCMB will review and develop options for the development of a PCH approach as part of the overall national recovery strategy for Parties consideration.
5. Will work with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) to encourage and increase harvesters' participation in voluntary harvest data collection and monitoring programs.
6. Continue to support hunter education and work with Parties to address these issues through appropriate communication programs.

If further information is required contact Stephen Charlie, Director of Lands and Resources at (867) 777-7927 or emailed at [stephen.charlie@gwichin.nt.ca](mailto:stephen.charlie@gwichin.nt.ca).

Sincerely,

Bobbie-Jo Greenland-Morgan, Grand Chief/President

c Jordan Peterson, GTC Vice-President  
Carolyn Lennie, GTC Chief Operating Officer  
David Wright, GTC Legal Counsel  
Stephen Charlie, GTC Director of Lands & Resources