

VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

CHIEF AND COUNCIL



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March 23, 2018

Porcupine Caribou Management Board
Box 31723
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Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Re: 2018 Recommendations from the Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting

Thank you for your recommendations letter dated February 26th, 2018 that was established at the Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest meeting in Dawson February 13th and 14th, 2018.

Our Vuntut Gwitchin Government recognizes and concurs that the PCH size is well within the green zone. As such, our people will continue our traditional subsistence harvesting practices of the herd. We will also continue to encourage that our citizens ensure the best accuracy in their shooting as possible while harvesting, to make best efforts to retrieve any wounded caribou and to direct our game guardian to collect and store harvest data through various means.

It is important to note that within our governments 2018/19 budget we have investments of funds for a Caribou Days Celebration once again, where we celebrate and educate everyone present on the life history, best harvesting practices, encourage hunter participation in programs and share our Vuntut Gwitchin cultural and traditional knowledge of the PCH and we have also re-instated the "Caribou Coordinator" position based here in Old Crow to promote our cultural history with the caribou here and throughout the world.

Prior to this letter being delivered, we sponsored three community caribou hunts that were successful in 11 caribou being harvested in different areas of our traditional territory. Harvesting took place in the Old Crow Flats and south of Old Crow near Pine Creek, all harvested caribou were similar in health and fat content.

On page 5 section D.1 Native User Agreements we understand that a final draft for the Range Wide Native User Agreement is imminent for the parties of the NUA to consider and in order to achieve consensus we would encourage the further definition of J8 of the PCMA be maintained in the document:

Section 8.2 that states:

"In determining the allocation of the harvest among the Native User Communities and any subsequent adjustments, the Parties recognize the unique dependency of the community of Old

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Crow, and shall consider special measures to meet their basic needs that may include but are not limited to:”

1. Community Hunts by and for Old Crow in the Settlement Territories of the other Parties;
2. Special harvest allocations on a percentage or fixed number basis, including a Basic Needs Allocation; and
3. Other measures as the Parties may agree.

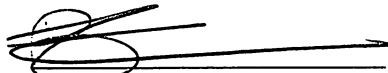
Finally, we had a successful information session, public meeting and meeting with myself, our VGG Manager of Fish and Wildlife, and VG Council with the Canadian Wildlife Service on February 21st and 22nd, 2018 regarding the listing of the Porcupine Caribou as threatened under the Federal Species at Risk Act. We are presently considering all the facts and we are going through our internal decision making processes and hope to come to a recommendation soon.

With regard to your letter dated January 18th, 2018 and the “Updated Porcupine Caribou Herd Range Map”. We do not have any issues with the newly proposed and updated Porcupine Caribou range map recommended by the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee.

We would like to extend a “Haii Cho” to the Parties, the PCMB and the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee in the implementation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan. We recognize progress is being made in the continued good management of the Vadzaih.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate in writing and present our Governments perspectives and priorities. Should you have any questions please contact our Natural Resources department directly.

All the best,



Bruce Charlie
Chief

cc: William Josie, VGG NR&H Director
Darius Elias, VGG F&W Manager

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