

Environment Canada / Environnement Canada

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To - À Joe Tetlich Chair Porcupine Caribou Management Board P.O. Box 31723 Whitehorse YT Y1A 6L3		From - De Céline Lirette Ministerial Correspondence Bureau Corporate Secretariat Environment Canada 27th Floor, 10 Wellington St. Gatineau (Quebec) K1A 0H3	
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Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

The Honourable L'honorable

Jim Prentice

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

JAN 06 2010

Mr. Joe Tetlich
 Chair
 Porcupine Caribou Management Board
 P.O. Box 31723
 Whitehorse YT Y1A 6L3

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Thank you for your letters of June 12 and October 19, with which you submitted a copy of the Porcupine Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan for my consideration.

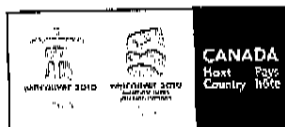
I would first like to express my appreciation to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board for its significant accomplishments in developing the Plan. I recognize that such a multi-party process is challenging, and your efforts demonstrate a high level of commitment to the long-term well-being of the porcupine caribou herd.

The Harvest Management Plan represents a strong step towards an adaptive management model which will facilitate the effective conservation of the porcupine caribou herd over the long term. However, although the Government of Canada broadly supports the draft plan, we believe that a few issues need to be addressed in order to improve the Plan and further promote the conservation of the herd.

It is recognized that the porcupine caribou herd plays a significant role in the lives of First Nations and Inuvialuit. As such, it is important that a monitoring program be developed to verify the effectiveness of the Plan's measures. Without proper monitoring of the Plan's effectiveness, the viability of the herd could be unintentionally jeopardized.

It is also important that the Board begin discussions now on setting annual allowable harvest rates and allocation for all user groups, in accordance with land claim agreements. This will allow any future harvest restrictions to be timely and responsive should the herd continue to decline to the threshold of 75 000 individuals.

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Canada
 Herd Pays
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On a related matter, please be assured that we will continue to work toward the renewal of the United States' commitment to actively manage this transboundary herd by appointing U.S. representatives to the International Porcupine Caribou Board.

In your October 19 letter, you requested the identification of the representatives who will be involved in the meeting of the Parties to bring the plan to finalization. We look forward to providing this information to you through our regional channels.

The Government of Canada intends to continue participating in the Board, with the Parks Canada Agency as its current representative. We will also continue to support the Board's operations as well as specific research and education initiatives, as we have done in the past. I look forward to having my officials work closely with the Board to help address these very important issues in a timely manner.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jim Prentice', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Jim Prentice, P.C., Q.C., M.P.