



April 11, 2017

Dear Mr. Tetlich,

**RE: Harvest Management Plan Annual Harvest Meeting – PCMB
Recommendations 2017**

Thank you for your letter, dated March 8, 2017, outlining the porcupine Caribou Management Board's (PCMB) recommendations culminating from the information submitted at the Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) held in Inuvik, NWT February 13 – 16, 2017.

As per the PCMB request to have each individual signatory to the PCMA review the recommendations that were outlined from the AHM, I am writing to you to share with you the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) perspective. TH has reviewed the PCMB's recommendations to the Parties resulting from the Annual Harvest Meeting and we would like to provide you with our comments.

The recommendations, as found in the document "Porcupine Caribou Management Board Recommendations to the Parties (February 2017)", have been presented to, and reviewed by, TH Chief and Council. TH Chief and Council has reviewed the recommended management actions by the Board including:

- Harvest Management Strategy to remain in the Green Zone;
- Native User Agreements;
- Sale, Trade and Barter Guidelines;
- Dempster Highway signage (to be reviewed once draft is completed);
- Encourage hunter participation in programs; and
- Hunter education have been approved by.

It is our pleasure to offer our continued support and commitment to implement these recommendations, as per Council Resolution CR2017-03-27-01 and CR2017-03-27-02.

With respect to the COSEWIC assessment of barren-ground caribou to be recommended for listing under SARA as "*threatened*", TH Chief and Council has expressed some concern with this designation and how it relates to the Porcupine Caribou Herd considering that this herd's population remains strong and healthy. I have been instructed to obtain legal counsel so that a review of potential encumbrances on TH subsistence and

harvesting rights that have been guaranteed to TH citizens under the TH Final Agreement, can be considered and assessed in light of this potential designation.

Please consider this as formal notice that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in does not, at this time, support the PCMB recommendation to begin development of a PCH management plan as part of the overall national recovery strategy for barren-ground caribou. We would like to engage with legal counsel to review and consider our options regarding the proposed SARA designation. TH must ensure that our government progresses with a strategy that protects our treaty rights and takes action to ensure that this designation will not impact future harvesting rights by these proposed actions. We will keep the PCMB apprised of information we receive from counsel.

Please do not hesitate to contact Natasha Ayoub, Manager, Fish and Wildlife at 867-993-7100 x.115 or Natasha.Ayoub@trondek.ca if you would like to discuss our response to the AHM recommendations.

Sincerely,

**TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN
FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH**



Darren Taylor
Director, Natural Resources
Darren.Taylor@trondek.ca