



# INUVALUIT GAME COUNCIL

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March 13, 2019

Joe Tetlich  
Chair, Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
PO Box 31723  
Whitehorse, YT  
Y1A 6L3

Dear Mr. Tetlich,

**Re: PCMB Recommendations – Harvest Management Plan 2019 AHM**

The Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) reviewed and discussed your March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 letter with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's (PCMB) recommendations coming out of the 2019 Annual Harvest Meeting. The IGC supports these recommendations.

The Council would also like to thank you for attending their meeting in December 2018, and remind you that they requested communication materials from the PCMB regarding the concept of Letting the Leaders Pass at that meeting. The minutes from that discussion are included as an attachment to this letter.

The IGC looks forward to continue working with the PCMB and the Parties to implement the Harvest Management Plan.

Thank you for all your good work.

Regards,

Chanda Turner  
Resource Management Coordinator

Encl.

Meeting minutes from December 2018 IGC Director's Meeting with PCMB Chair

CC:

Inuvik HTC

Aklavik HTC

Tuktoyaktuk HTC

WMAC(NS)

WMAC(NWT)

## Excerpt from December 2018 IGC Directors' Meeting Minutes

### 4.26 PCMB (Joe Tetlich)

Joe explained that he was attending the meeting to discuss the concerns expressed by the IGC in their September 19 2018 letter. He indicated that providing clarity on these issues is important, and pointed to the Inuvialuit interest and leadership in the creation of the PCMA for the protection of the herd.

In regards to the concept of 'letting the leaders pass': PCMB went through a consultation period regarding this issue, but there was no clear answer. At one point, PCMB had legislated the concept of letting the leaders pass, but decided to rescind this legislation based on feedback that it was creating hardship in some communities. The questions of defining the leaders and getting people to agree to and understand the concept is tricky. Joe said: "We just have to use common sense," and provided the example of not going out to the highway and harvesting as soon as you know they are there.

Joe affirmed that the PCMB cannot infringe upon any Aboriginal rights. The parties to the PCMA have the right to harvest caribou whenever and wherever. The responsibility lies with communities (RRCs and HTC) to work with and educate their communities because they know their communities best. PCMB only makes recommendations, the communities have to buy in.

Joe also discussed the sale of Porcupine Caribou. The PCMA allows for trading and bartering, but not sale. There are concerns about people selling caribou. Joe again suggested that it is up to communities and individuals to make value judgements and hold each other accountable to what is acceptable for trading and bartering. Joe suggested that communities have to support the officers if someone is harvesting and selling a large amount of caribou. Joe discussed the process the Gwich'in are going through in the GSA, holding community meetings to discuss the definition of commercial.

Dean asked about the Alaskan users of the herd, and whether these messages are provided to Alaskan Gwich'in and if they report their harvest. Joe explained that these communities (Arctic Village, Kaktovik, and Venetie) take very little caribou. The PCMB is working towards having the Harvest Management Plan (HMP) adopted in Alaska. There is still not great understanding of how the HMP works, and that there will be management options (harvest 'quotas') considered if the population gets low. Joe indicated that the Annual Harvest Meeting is in February in Inuvik, and anyone can attend this meeting.

Vernon reiterated that the Council would like to see more educational material on the leaders. Jordan provided some more context on the Council's concerns – everyone says let the leaders pass, but communities are pointing fingers at each other and at individuals to say that the caribou should have been let by. The movement patterns have changed – there's bunches everywhere so how do you know which ones are the leaders? Joe said that this conversation exactly is the challenge that the PCMB has. How do you stop the people who really want to go out right away, even if the Elders are saying don't harvest these ones. There's a reality that everyone wants fresh meat. The

PCMB has a hard time with this, especially because if the PCMB cannot restrict harvesting that people have rights to in the PCMA.

Joe indicated that there are materials they can provide. He also made it clear that nobody wants to point fingers because that's a lose-lose.

Lawrence clarified that the PCMB supports the message that all PMCA parties have rights to harvest throughout the range of the herd, and Joe agreed.