



March 27, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Re: Harvest Management Plan 2020 Annual Harvest Meeting – Porcupine Caribou Management Board Recommendations

Thank you for your letter dated March 4, 2020 outlining management recommendations established at the ninth Annual Harvest Meeting for the Porcupine Caribou Herd held in Dawson City.

The Government of Yukon accepts the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's recommendation that the Porcupine Caribou Herd is in the Green Zone. We will continue to manage the herd consistent with the Green Zone, as described in the Harvest Management Plan. Specifically:

- Harvesters will be encouraged to only take what they need. We echo the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's recommendation of taking bulls where possible, as harvesting bulls impacts the herd less than harvesting cows.
- Licensed harvesters will receive a maximum of two bull tags.
- We will continue to support hunter education and awareness programs, including "sight in your rifle" events and initiatives that speak to the importance of retrieving wounded animals.
- We will continue to work internally and with other parties to improve the collection of accurate and verifiable harvest information. This information will be provided to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board before the 2021 Annual Harvest Meeting.

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With respect to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's recommendations regarding other concerns, Government of Yukon offers the following for consideration:

- **Encourage hunter's participation in programs:** We will continue to support the participation of member communities in gathering information on Porcupine Caribou Herd harvest and body condition through our regional and harvest programs. We are also in support of the initiative to improve the estimates of harvest quality through the identification of Porcupine Caribou Herd harvesters distinct from the overall harvester list and will work with our partners with this objective in mind.
- **Education initiatives:** We will continue to support hunter education and awareness programs to help ensure ethical harvesting practices and behaviours. We support building upon existing successes with a focus on youth engagement. We also support additional education initiatives and will work with the Parties where possible to contribute to these initiatives.
- **Outstanding Harvest Management Plan Implementation Plan activities:**
 - a) Activity 2.2.3: As indicated at the Annual Harvest Meeting, we will initiate the process of engaging with Yukon First Nations to develop an allocation agreement between licensed and subsistence users to ensure the harvest is responsibly managed in the Orange Zone.
 - b) Activity 2.2.5: We will engage with Parks Canada Agency and NWT to discuss options for developing a range wide Porcupine Caribou Herd tag.

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and Parties to ensure the sustainable management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, as described in the Harvest Management Plan and Implementation Plan. Our government remains committed to the collaborative management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

If you have any further questions, please contact Ryan Hennings, Director Fish and Wildlife, at ryan.hennings@gov.yk.ca or 867-667-5715.

Sincerely,



John L. Bailey, PhD
Deputy Minister of Environment