



Environment
Office of the Deputy Minister
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



March 18, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Re: Recommendations from Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting

Thank you for the recommendations dated February 23, 2015 that were established as a result of the Annual Harvest Meeting for the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH).

Yukon government accepts your recommendation that the PCH is in the Green Zone. We will continue to manage the herd according to the Green Zone management actions outlined in the Harvest Management Plan (HMP). Specifically, this will include a limit of two bull tags for licensed harvesters and wounded animals will be retrieved. Our hunter education and "sight in your rifle" programs will continue, as will our internal and collaborative improvements in the collection of accurate and verifiable harvest data.

With respect to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's (the Board) recommendations under "D: Regarding Other Concerns", the department offers the following comments for consideration.

- **Incorporate local hunter and traditional knowledge into the process:** Yukon government supports the consideration of local community and traditional knowledge in porcupine caribou management. However, Yukon government is neither the holder of, nor privy to, traditional knowledge. As the membership and makeup of the Board includes First Nation and community members, we hope that such knowledge can be in part, identified and shared by the Board.
- **Workshop on computer modelling:** Yukon government has completed its internal work on the PCH population model. The Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee (PCTC) has reviewed the model and we anticipate that the model will be shared more broadly following the next PCTC meeting. We concur on the need

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for a workshop on the applications and limitations of computer models and the importance of accurate harvest information. We foresee our Board member and PCTC representative coordinating with the PCTC and the Parties to establish an appropriate time and venue for this workshop. While the model is substantially completed and is available for distribution to interested parties, it will be distributed more broadly, following the workshop.

- **Develop Native User Agreements:** Yukon government encourages the advancement of Native User Agreements and will consider assisting with the discussion if required.
- **Encourage hunter's participation in programs:** Yukon government will continue to support, through the regional and harvest programs, the participation of member communities in gathering data on harvest and caribou condition in support of PCH management.
- **Communication regarding regulations and harvesting rights:** Yukon government supports this management action and will first review and evaluate our existing communication products and messaging in this area. We anticipate that once the materials are up to date, we will approach the Board for advice on effective approaches to communication and outreach.

Yukon government commends the efforts of all Parties to the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan and recognizes the progress that has been made over the past year. Our government remains committed to carrying out activities identified under the plan to ensure the sustainable management of this important herd.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our priority issues. If you have any further questions, please contact my office directly.

Sincerely,



Jim Connell
Deputy Minister of Environment