



Tlicho Government

Box 412, Behchokò, NT XOE 0Y0 • Tel: (867) 392-6381 Fax: (867) 392-6389 www.tlicho.ca

August 27, 2009

Grant Pryznyk, Interim Chair,
Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board,
202 – 5103 51st Street,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P3

Dear Sirs,

Re Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Proposal

I am writing to reply to Alfonz Nitsiza's letter of July 31, 2009. I am grateful for that letter, because the proper management of the Bathurst Caribou Herd is of enormous importance to the way of life and well-being of the Tlicho.

The Tlicho Government agrees with the Board's preference, as explained in that letter, that the GNWT and Tlicho Government provide the Board with **jointly agreed** management plan proposals to address recent population surveys that show a continuing steep decline in the Bathurst Caribou Herd.

The GNWT has authority under the *Wildlife Act* to develop such management plans for the herd, and Tlicho Government has authority to develop such plans because of our authority to enact laws respecting both Tlicho Lands and the exercise of Tlicho harvesting rights.

Because those authorities of GNWT and Tlicho Government are concurrent and overlapping to some extent, it makes good sense for us to try to develop a consensus approach to such plans. That approach is also consistent with 12.14.1 of the Tlicho Agreement, which requires the parties to make every attempt to harmonize their respective laws in relation to wildlife management, in order to ensure maximum protection for wildlife.

Also, 12.5.1 of the Tlicho Agreement requires that all such management plans be submitted to the Board for review before they are implemented, and 12.5.4 requires the Board to consult with GNWT and Tlicho Government about such proposed plans, as well as with other management bodies with authority for the herd when it migrates outside

Wek'eezhii. This is another reason why it makes good sense for GNWT and Tłı̨chǫ Government to try to develop a consensus approach for such plans.

For that reason we have already begun discussions with GNWT officials, and we will continue those, in an effort to have a consensus proposal filed with the Board by the end of October. As part of that process, Tłı̨chǫ Government will be involving our own communities and traditional knowledge experts in the development of these management plan proposals.

We agree with the statement in the July 31 letter, that there may be a need for a public hearing respecting these matters, and that it would be best to hold such a hearing before the end of December if that is the case. We will know whether a hearing would be appropriate when we know the types of management plan proposals that GNWT and Tłı̨chǫ Government develop.

I look forward to collaborating with your Board on this important work.

Yours in Tłı̨chǫ Unity,



Grand Chief George Mackenzie.