



# Yellowknives Dene First Nation

P.O. Box 2514, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P8

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Sarah True  
 Environment and Natural Resources  
 Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
 Fax: (867) 873-6230

Dear Ms. True:

**Re: Bear Baiting Operation – True North Safaris Ltd (NS2010WG001)**

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) received your fax of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and would like to comment on the application. YKDFN does not support the practice of baiting black bears as it is not the traditional method of hunting and lacks respect for the animals. However, since the actual hunting occurs outside the Chief Drygeese territory and the Tli Cho government supports the application, YKDFN would not object.

YKDFN would like to recommend the following:

- We have specific concerns on how the practice is employed. We strongly suggest that the baits used be composed of natural meats or fish akin to prey that black bears could normally expect to feed on in the area. This represents a middle ground with respect to the baiting, as it does not habituate any bears to “human foods” and minimizes the likelihood of developing problem bears.
- YKDFN Land and Environment will be provided a map showing where the baiting stations area
- YKDFN was pleased to hear about the generally favourable 2009 inspection after the general non-compliance seen in 2008. We hope that this continues, but also suggest that Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) continue to inspect both the sites during the active period, but also revisit the baiting stations to ensure that they have been appropriately shut down for the season.
- We strongly suggest that ENR undertake research that examines the effect that baiting may have on the distribution of bears – namely do the sites represent a significant variable in the distribution of animals after they have been removed. Clearly, they effect the distribution when they are active, but it's not clear what (if any) impact the long term operation may have on the population distribution.

If there are any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Land and Environment Office at (867) 766-3496.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Sangris".

Chief Edward Sangris  
 Yellowknives Dene First Nation (Dettah)

Copy: Todd Slack, YKDFN – Land and Environment, Yellowknife, Fax: (867) 766-3497  
 Steve Ellis, Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office, Lutsel K'e, Fax: (867) 370-3209