



**Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council**

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September 26, 2019

Distribution List Attached

**RE: Advance Invitation: Joint Colville Lake-SRRB “Public Listening Session”  
on Dene Ragóza (Hunting Laws) and Sahtú Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting  
January 21-23, 2020 in Colville Lake**

Dear Sahtú Government Leaders, ᖃᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕐᕐ ᑕᕐᕐᕐ Leaders, and ENR Representatives:

The Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council (Colville RRC) and the ᖃᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕐᕐ ᑕᕐᕐᕐ ᑕᕐᕐᕐ (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB) invite representatives of the Sahtú Secretariat, Sahtú First Nation Councils, Land Corporations, ᖃᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᕐᕐᕐ (Renewable Resources Councils) and ENR to a “Public Listening Session” (Hearing) on January 21-23 in Colville Lake.

This special gathering will focus on Dene ragóza (hunting laws) and Sahtú approaches to wildlife harvesting.

The event is the first of five Public Listening Sessions which, together, constitute a Sahtú region-wide public hearing on emerging caribou conservation issues and community conservation planning processes for wildlife in the Sahtú region. We will be trying to answer the question, “What is the most effective way to conserve caribou?”

The Public Listening Session in Colville Lake will provide an important opportunity for Sahtú communities to continue to develop community caribou conservation plans and an approach based on the values and knowledge of Sahtú Dene and Métis. The Colville Lake Public Listening Session will be the basis for future SRRB decisions and recommendations about how we will continue to live with caribou in the Sahtú region.

The Colville RRC and SRRB will release a formal public notice in upcoming weeks, providing more detail about community and youth workshops and other preparation for the January gathering.

**Background**

The SRRB is inviting each of the five Sahtú communities in turn to partner in a series of “Public Listening Sessions” (Hearings) over the 2020-2023 period. The Public Listening Sessions will address key emerging caribou conservation issues that have evolved in the Sahtú region since previous SRRB caribou hearings in 2007 and 2016.

The Public Listening Sessions will also support the ongoing development of best practices and models for community caribou conservation plans. Each Public Listening Session will focus on the host Sahtú

community's conservation planning process plus a key region-wide theme related to conservation planning.

For the Colville Lake Public Listening Session in January 2020, the key region-wide theme is **Dene ragóza (hunting laws) and Sahtú approaches to wildlife harvesting**. The new *Dehlá Got'ine Tseduweh ʔade ʔahzah* – Colville's caribou plan and harvest law – will be reviewed by the SRRB as part of this process.

In April 2015, the Sahtú communities gathered in Colville Lake to discuss caribou conservation issues. The Sahtú organizations present (SSI and all the Sahtú Band Councils, Land Corporations and ʔehdzo Got'inę) passed joint resolutions supporting traditional Dene ʔeʔa (laws) on relationships with caribou and a Sahtú-developed caribou plan. (A copy of the 2015 Sahtú region-wide caribou resolutions is attached to this letter.)

The SRRB has, since then, been assisting each Sahtú community to develop its own community caribou conservation planning process. Déłnę completed its community caribou conservation approach, the *Belare Wile Gots'ę ʔekwé: Caribou for All Time* plan, in 2016. This was reviewed by the SRRB in 2016 and resulted in the SRRB's hearing report on Bluenose East caribou conservation, *ʔekwé hé Dene Ts'ıłı - Sustaining Relationships* which supported the Déłnę community conservation plan as the best approach to address caribou conservation concerns.

Colville is now completing the *Dehlá Got'ine Tseduweh ʔade ʔahzah*. The January 2020 Public Listening Session is an opportunity for Colville to share its approach to community conservation planning. It is also an opportunity for other Sahtú communities to learn more about the Dehlá Got'inę plan, share their own plans, and participate in the discussion about Dene ragóza (hunting laws) and Sahtú approaches to wildlife harvesting.

Colville will share the final version of the *Dehlá Got'ine Tseduweh ʔade ʔahzah* in October 2019. Colville and the SRRB are coordinating a workshop during the week of November 4-8 to assist each community to update its community conservation plan (to share with other Sahtú communities) and to prepare for the January Public Listening Session in Colville Lake.

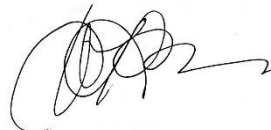
The Colville RRC and the SRRB will circulate more detailed information in about two weeks, with the formal public notice of the Colville Lake Public Listening Session, more detailed information about the community conservation planning workshop in November, and more information about how to participate.

If you have questions about this invitation, please contact Kirsten Jensen at the SRRB (email [planner@srrb.nt.ca](mailto:planner@srrb.nt.ca) or telephone 867-588-4040) or David Codzi at Colville Lake (email [davidcodzi@behdziahda.com](mailto:davidcodzi@behdziahda.com) or telephone 867-709-2202).

Máhsı,



Wilbert Kochon, President  
Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council  
and Chief, Behdzi Ahda' First Nation



Deborah Simmons, Executive Director  
ʔehdzo Got'inę Gots'ę Nákedı  
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

# Sahtu Caribou Meeting Resolutions

Colville Lake, April 22-23

## **Resolutions 1.1-1.3 – Governance**

1.1 Any future caribou conservation decisions or restrictions must go to all the undersigned organizations in a public forum to ensure meaningful consultation. *David Codzi/Charles McNeely*

1.2 That the Sahtú region continue the traditional laws of relationship with caribou through a Sahtú-developed caribou plan including a process of self-regulation, driven by community-based monitoring and decisions. *Joseph Kochon/George Barnaby*

1.3 That the Sahtú communities assemble together regularly to share knowledge and plans related to caribou in the Sahtú region, including celebrating our culture through traditional stories, music, dancing and cultural exchange. *Alvin Orlias/Frederick Andrew*

## **Resolution 2 - ʔehdzo Got'jneᑦ Funding**

That SSI and SRRB seek funds for each of the RRCs to fulfill their mandate under Chapter 13 of the SDMCLCA, including:

- Monitoring based on our traditional laws and knowledge
- RRCs' investigations, monitoring and collection of evidence as a basis for ENR enforcement
- Scientific research and monitoring, including the RRCs conducting herd counts based on traditional laws and knowledge
- Developing and implementing each community's caribou management plan

*Wilbert Kochon/Edwin Erutse*

## **Resolution 3 – Caribou Tags**

The Sahtú region rejects the current imposition of tags on aboriginal harvesters by ENR under the Wildlife Act Big Game Hunting Regulations for Bluenose West and Bluenose East caribou in the Sahtú Region, as there is no traditional knowledge or science-based evidence of a caribou population level such that conservation measures of this nature are required under the terms of the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. *David Codzi/Michel Lafferty*

## **Resolution 4 - Proposed Tundra Copper Exploration**

We, the undersigned, with the support of the Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated, oppose the proposed Tundra Copper Exploration project until steps are taken to ensure the protection of the Bluenose East caribou calving ground; and that if caribou habitat and caribou are not properly protected, that we oppose this development. *Chief Leonard Kenny/Alvin Orlias*

## **Resolution 5 – Caribou Collaring**

We the undersigned oppose the use of collars for monitoring wildlife, and instead support the use of the knowledge of the RRCs and the hunters. *Richard Kochon/Charles McNeely*

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

Organization	Name	Title	Fax	Email
Déljné ʔehdzo Got'jné	Ed Reeves	Manager	867-589-4230	<a href="mailto:drrc_manager@gov.deline.ca">drrc_manager@gov.deline.ca</a>
Déljné Got'jné Government	Gina Bayha	Director, Lands	867-589-4230	<a href="mailto:gina.bayha@gov.deline.ca">gina.bayha@gov.deline.ca</a>
Déljné Got'jné Government	Leeroy Andre	Ekw'áhdjdá	867-589-8101	<a href="mailto:leeroy.andre@gov.deline.ca">leeroy.andre@gov.deline.ca</a>
Déljné Got'jné Government	David Little	CEO	867-589-8101	<a href="mailto:david.little@gov.deline.ca">david.little@gov.deline.ca</a>
K'ásho Got'jné Charter Community Council	Danny Masuzumi	Chief	867-598-2024	<a href="mailto:chief@kashogotine.com">chief@kashogotine.com</a>
Yamoga Land Corporation	Edwin Erutse	President	867-598-2437	<a href="mailto:president@yamoga.ca">president@yamoga.ca</a>
Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got'jné	Montana King	Office Manager	867-598-2437	<a href="mailto:fgh.rrc@northwestel.net">fgh.rrc@northwestel.net</a>
Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got'jné	Harry Harris	President	867-598-2437	<a href="mailto:hh698489@gmail.com">hh698489@gmail.com</a>
Fort Good Hope Métis Local #54 Land Corporation	Winston McNeely	President	867-598-2160	
Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council	Rhea McDonald	President	867-587-2545	<a href="mailto:sahtuapple@hotmail.com">sahtuapple@hotmail.com</a>
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Tulít'a District Land Corporation	Sherry Hodgson	President	867-587-2545	<a href="mailto:hci2@theedgenw.ca">hci2@theedgenw.ca</a>
Sahtú Dene Council	Brenda Baton	Administrator	867-589-4908	<a href="mailto:sdc_aset@northwestel.net">sdc_aset@northwestel.net</a>
Sahtú Secretariat Inc.	Charles McNeely	Chair	867-589-4908	<a href="mailto:charles_mcneely@hotmail.com">charles_mcneely@hotmail.com</a>
Sahtú Secretariat Inc.	Orlena Modeste	Executive Director	867-589-4908	<a href="mailto:ssi.ed@sahtu.ca">ssi.ed@sahtu.ca</a>
Sahtú Dene Council	Wilbert Kochon	Grand Chief	867-589-4908	<a href="mailto:chief@behdziahda.com">chief@behdziahda.com</a>
Tulít'a Dene Band	Band Manager	Band Manager	867-588-3613	<a href="mailto:band_manager@tulitadeneband.com">band_manager@tulitadeneband.com</a>
Tulít'a Land Corporation	David Menacho	President	867-588-4025	<a href="mailto:executivedirector@tulitacorp.ca">executivedirector@tulitacorp.ca</a>
Tulít'a Dene Band	Frank Andrew	Chief	867-588-3613	<a href="mailto:tdbchief@live.ca">tdbchief@live.ca</a>
Tulít'a ʔehdzo Got'jné	Gordon Yakeleya	President	867-588-3726	<a href="mailto:yakeleyagordon@gmail.com">yakeleyagordon@gmail.com</a>
Tulít'a District Land Corporation	Sherry Hodgson	President	867-588-3997	<a href="mailto:hci2@theedgenw.ca">hci2@theedgenw.ca</a>
Tulít'a District Land Corporation	Louise Reindeer	Executive Director	867-588-3997	<a href="mailto:district@allstream.net">district@allstream.net</a>
Fort Norman Métis Local #60 Land Corporation	Richard Hardy	President	867-588-3806	<a href="mailto:membership@fnmlc.ca">membership@fnmlc.ca</a>
NWT Environment & Natural Resources	Brett Elkin	Director, Wildlife	867-837-0293	<a href="mailto:brett_elkin@gov.nt.ca">brett_elkin@gov.nt.ca</a>
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