



JAN 13 2020

Mr. George Barnaby, Interim Chair
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
PO BOX 134
TULÍT'A NT X0E OK0

Dear Mr. Barnaby:

Responses to Information Requests – Round No.2 – Colville 2020 Public Listening Session – Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

On December 20, 2019, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) received a list of information requests from the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB). This list was provided on behalf of the confirmed parties for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session on Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting.

ENR is pleased to provide the attached responses to the SRRB's information requests.

Sincerely,

Erin Kelly, Ph.D.
Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

Attachment

c. The Honourable Shane Thompson, Minister
Environment and Natural Resources

Mr. Brett Elkin, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations
Environment and Natural Resources

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**Mr. Jeffery Walker, Superintendent, Sahtú Region
Environment and Natural Resources**

**Ms. Karin Clark, A/Director of Wildlife
Environment and Natural Resources**

**Ms. Deborah Simmons, Executive Director
Sahtú Renewable Resources Board**



Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Laws) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting

Environment and Natural Resources - Public Listening
Information Requests – Round 2

January 13, 2020

Topic 4: Public Listening Process and Timelines

4.1 In considering the capacity of the SRRB and the Parties, and the experience of preparing for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session, do you support a revised timeline for Public Listening Sessions with only one Session per year, with a schedule to prepare for each Session in modest steps throughout the year, and completion of Reasons for Decision report by March 31? Please comment on the following timeline, topics and hosting communities, keeping in mind the benefits of holding sessions during winter road season to maximize participation:

2021 – Session 2: Knowledge of Caribou and Landscapes (Déljñę)

2022 – Session 3: Caribou and Predators (Fort Good Hope)

2023 – Session 4: Wildfires, Climate Change and Caribou Habitat (Tulj't'a)

2024 – Session 5: The Sahtú Mixed Economy and Caribou Conservation (N. Wells)

2025 – SRRB Final Wrap-up Hearing Report

ENR is supportive of the revised timelines for the Public Listening Sessions. Based on this timeline ENR has the following questions for the SRRB to consider:

- What will be the process utilized for the SRRB Final Wrap-up Hearing Report? Will it include a further public listening?
- What is the final wrap-up hearing report intended to contain?
- If recommendations are included within the final wrap-up hearing report, how will they potentially impact past recommendations from each public listening?
- Will recommendations be limited to the scope of each public listening session?

4.2 The SRRB recognizes that evaluation of each Public Listening Session and advance planning and scoping for future Sessions will support fulsome evidence gathering, fairness, and impactful decision-making. The Board hopes to launch Session 2 as early as possible in 2020. Please provide comments on the following preliminary draft timeline for Session 2, based on your experience with Colville 2020 Public Listening Session activities and timelines.

ENR is generally supportive of the amended Preliminary Draft Timelines for the Public Listening Session 2. ENR feels that the SRRB should ensure that these timelines allow for adequate time for parties to:

- Create and review management proposals;
- Review and respond to Information Requests; and
- Adequately prepare for the public listening.

With respect to potential written management proposals, such as community caribou plans, if those are to be reviewed at the hearing, ENR suggests that the deadline for submissions of these proposals be well in advance of the deadlines for registration and for issuance of Round 1 IR's. This allows for any interested parties to register for the hearing and for the Round 1 IR's to be utilized to request additional information or clarification on any submitted proposal. It also ensures all parties have adequate time to prepare to address both the session topic as well as any potential proposal.

Based on the timeline provided, ENR has the following questions for the SRRB to consider:

- The current deadline for registration is June 12, 2020. Will this be a firm deadline for parties to register or will it be similar to the current public listening where parties can continue to register past the deadline?
- When and how will the SRRB assess the completeness and adequacy of any management proposals received?
- To ensure the parties have adequate time to review the proposals, could the deadline for round 1 responses to IRs be after the proposal has been submitted and reviewed?