



April 26, 2024

Catarina Owen
A/Executive Director
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
eas@srrb.nt.ca

Dear Catarina Owen:

Notice of Motion and Opportunity to Respond

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the motion put forward by the Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council, as noted in your correspondence on April 15, 2024.

Please accept the attachment as the Department of Environment and Climate Change's (ECC) response to the motion. ECC staff look forward to working with the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and Sahtu communities on issues of shared interest.

Sincerely,

Erin Kelly, Ph.D.
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Attachment

c. Dr. Brett Elkin
Assistant Deputy Minister, Wildlife and Forest Management
Environment and Climate Change

Heather Sayine-Crawford
Director, Wildlife Management
Environment and Climate Change

Gila Somers
A/Director, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods
Environment and Climate Change

Jeff Walker
Superintendent, Sahtu Region
Environment and Climate Change

Attachment

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) leads the GNWT's participation and submissions to the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board's (SRRB) Public Listening Sessions.

ECC's final submission and response to the third round of Information Requests (IRs) for the Tłegóhłı 2024 ʔełets'éhkwę Godí - Public Listening Session was transmitted to the SRRB on March 22, 2024. While the initial deadline for submissions was set at March 11, 2024, ECC requested and received two extensions to that deadline. ECC's position is that it would not be procedurally fair for the SRRB to retroactively revoke those extensions. ECC's final submission was submitted on time, in accordance with those extensions. With regard to the second extension granted to ECC by the SRRB not being disclosed appropriately to all parties, ECC notes that this was a posting error, with the notification being inadvertently posted on the registry in the "correspondence" folder. ECC should not be prejudiced by this posting error.

The decisions to be made by the SRRB will benefit from having all relevant submissions before it. The submission and responses to the IRs provide important information for the SRRB to consider and did not note or take into account any of the written closing arguments submitted by other parties to the Tłegóhłı 2024 ʔełets'éhkwę Godí - Public Listening Session. Therefore, there was no unfairness or prejudice to the FGHRRC or any other party resulting from the deadline extension for ECC.

For the reasons set out above, ECC is of the view that no remedy sought in the FGHRRC's Motion should be granted, and the Motion should be dismissed.

Finally, ECC does wish to clarify in relation to the response in ECC's submission on page 5 under the heading "*IPCA's and the SRRB's authority (re: Tuyeta)*" that as ECC's view is that the SRRB's involvement in reviewing the draft management plan should be in relation to renewable resources, the SRRB should therefore not assess aspects of the draft management plan that address matters unrelated to renewable resources. ECC is happy to discuss the review and approval of management plans under the *Protected Areas Act*.