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Tłegóhłı 2024 Public Listening Session – Climate, Wildfire and Caribou

INFORMATION REQUEST 2 SUBMISSION

Colville Lake Renewable Resources Council

Ayoni Keh Land Corporation

Behdzi Ahda” First Nation

(collectively, “Dehlá Got’ıne”)

Information Request (IR) #2

Introduction

Dehlá Got'íne are pleased that the SRRB has reflected our submissions in Information Request (IR) #1 by focusing the questions in IR #2 on “What should people’s role be in addressing the impacts of climate change and wildfires on caribou?”.

As we have noted, our ʔeʔá says that we have responsibilities to ensure that our people are safe, that our people take only what they need, and that our people respect all of our relationships.

Dehlá Got'íne Responses to IR Questions

A. *Communication*

What is the best way for governments and other agencies to communicate information to your community about climate change, changes to the land, and changes to the animals?

Outside governments and agencies should respect the fact that they do not know us or our people. They don't speak our language. They use the wrong words. They communicate in the wrong ways. They make many mistakes. The best way for them to communicate with us is to share what they think they know, and let us decide how to best communicate to our own people.

B. *Questions about adaptation to changes you cannot control, including climate change and wildfires.*

1. We have knowledge that we could share about these topics, but we are not willing to sharing them in this listening session. We have no trust and no confidence that the GNWT will use any of this information to help our people. Instead, we are concerned that they will use it to find reasons to tell us what we can and cannot do. Until our concerns about how the Treaty is being implemented are addressed and there is a common understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the GNWT and our Renewable Resource Councils, we have nothing to say in these forums about what we are seeing or doing on the land. This issue needs to be discussed at this Listening Session.

2. When it comes to wildfire and climate change, we believe that the proper roles of communities is to look after our people on the lands that they use. We cannot change what happens to the land. We can adapt to those changes. To do so, we cannot rely on other people to do that work for us. But they have all the resources. We need the GNWT to share those resources with us, and to recognize that our local governments are better placed to make plans for how to deal with these changes, including when it comes to emergency situations like fires or floods. The role of the GNWT should be to provide resources and to help to coordinate between the communities when it is required. But we have seen what happens when a big emergency happens in Yellowknife, like with the evacuation last summer. We were left on our own. We did what we could with what we had. It taught us that we should never be in a position where we have to rely on the GNWT or the plans that the GNWT has made when it comes to those things that are essential for our people – we need to ensure that we are resilient. We need to have the resources and authorities that we need to provide for ourselves in such situations.

C. Observations of Caribou and Climate Change in General

1. We have knowledge that we could share about these topics, but we are not willing to sharing them in this listening session until there is a better understanding of the roles of the Treaty partners in making use of this information. This needs to be discussed at this Listening Session.

D. H̱do Gogha S̱ṉgots'ia (Planning for the Future – PFF) – Planning, Climate Change and Wildfires

1. *How can H̱do Gogha S̱ṉgots'ia (Planning for the Future – PFF) help you address and respond to climate change impacts and wildfires? We cannot answer this question at this time, given the uncertainties about how the GNWT is interpreting the Treaty are resolved, and the roles and responsibilities of the GNWT, SRRB and our communities are resolved. We are concerned that until those questions are resolved, proper discussions about the roles and responsibilities of the Treaty partners cannot occur. What is the point of developing a plan if the GNWT is the only party with the power and the resources to implement that plan? If the only role for participants at the end of the day is to be told what to do by the GNWT, Dehlá Got'ine do not see any point*

in participating in planning. That is not our vision for how to implement the Treaty. This issue needs to be discussed at this Listening Session.

E. Hıdo Gogha Sėnėgots'ıa (Planning for the Future – PFF) – Planning Process

1. As above, we have specific knowledge and practices that we could share, and views on how to plan and how to work with others to do things better at both a local level and across the Sahtu. But we are not going to simply say things that will never get done, or provide information that only the GNWT has the resources and authority to use. This issue needs to be discussed at this Listening Session.

Respectfully,



Dehlá Got'ıne