



## **Délįnę ʔehdzo Got'įnę**

### **Final Submission**

# **Tłegóhłı (Norman Wells) ʔełets'éhkwę Godı Public Listening Session (PLS)**

**March 11, 2024**

1. Thank you to Norman Wells ʔehdzo Got'įnę and the Sathu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) for hosting the Public Listening Session.
2. You will find our position on the issues for this Public Listening Session in our answers to the Information Requests, our written presentation, and the presentation given by DRRC President Russell Kenny and ʔekw'ahtıdę Danny Gaudet at the Public Listening Session.
3. As ʔekw'ahtıdę Gaudet said at the Public Listening Session, “our most important thing is to try to make sure that our caribou come back”.<sup>1</sup> We cannot control climate change. We cannot control wildfires. We cannot control caribou. We need to focus on looking at what we can do as humans.

### ***Wildfires***

4. We have said throughout this process that it is very important that fires are fought early and put out before they get out of control. To do this we need firefighting equipment and training in Délįnę so that we can be

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<sup>1</sup> Transcript, February 20, 2024 at p 122

ready to fight wildfires when they start. We cannot be waiting for the GNWT to make a decision and send airplanes.

5. We heard from the GNWT about how they make decisions to fight fires. We are concerned that the GNWT is not taking into account our Dene values and Dene ʔeʔa on what is important when making these decisions. We agree with the presentation from the Tulit'a ʔehdzo Got'ıne, when our land is destroyed, it also destroys our way of life.
6. Wildfires are only going to become a bigger issue in the future. As the permafrost melts, fires can now get deep into the ground. We are very worried about this. We heard from GNWT representatives that fire is natural and needed for the landscape. But our lands and water are being changed by climate change. What used to happen is different now. The fires we are seeing now are not natural to this environment. We are very worried about fires with the changes we are seeing. They will burn more out of control, deeper into the ground, and destroy our lands, wildlife and way of life.
7. We want the GNWT to include the Dene perspective on lands and wildlife and our Dene ʔeʔa when making decisions about fighting fires. Protecting our culture and way of life needs to be a top priority in decision making about fire suppression.

## ***Climate Change***

8. As we wrote in our information requests and written presentation, we need more funding so that we can do monitoring of our lands to measure the impacts of climate change. We need to do this monitoring ourselves. We will collect and share information with our community regularly. This data will belong to us. We are working on developing a Guardian program in Délıne and this could be one of their tasks.
9. Our youth have told us that they are worried about climate change. They want a voice in discussions about the future of our lands. We encourage the SRRB and GNWT to look for opportunities to engage youth in Délıne on climate change issues.

10. Adapting to climate change will be expensive. As you heard in the presentation from ʔekw'ahtłdéd Gaudet, replacing caribou with other meat sources is very expensive for our people. We need more support for programs that help us harvest and use other species and bring in meat from outside of Délıne.

### ***Planning***

11. We listened to the SRRB presentation on planning guidelines. We have a plan. As we said during the PLS, we are sticking with our Belare Wıle Gots'éd ʔekwé – Caribou for All Time – A Délıne Got'ıne Plan of Action. We need to give the ʔekwé more time to recover before we considering increasing our harvesting.

12. We are self-governing in Délıne. We will continue to work as a Self-Governing Indigenous Government on planning. We want to make sure that the SRRB's guidelines are flexible and allow us to make our own decisions about our lands and resources.