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OCT 25 2005

Mr. Walter Bayha  
Chairman  
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board  
PO BOX 134  
TULITA NT X0E 0K0

Dear Mr. Bayha: *Walter*

**Bluenose -West and East Caribou Herd Management Options**

Thank you for your letter of September 23, 2005 regarding recommendations for action by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) on the Bluenose- West and East caribou herds.

I look forward to the results from your further discussions with community harvesters and beneficiaries and the Sahtu Region's specific list of recommendations to be forwarded to my office in early 2006.

In response to the Board's recommendations, ENR will take the following actions:

1. Recommendation 1: ENR agrees with the Sahtu Renewable Resource Board (SRRB) recommendations to repeat the photo -census in 2006 and will begin planning for the survey this fall. Similar requests were made by the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in co-management boards. As with the 2005 census, ENR will submit details of the plan, including a request for financial support, to the Board for their February research meeting. Financial support for the Board will help ensure the success of the photo-census 2006.
2. Recommendation 2: ENR agrees with the SRRB recommendation to establish check stations on roads between Tulita/Deline and Fort Good Hope/Colville Lake during 2006 winter road season to promote caribou conservation and collect harvest data. Sahtu regional staff is currently developing a plan and budget and will contact industry, the Federal Government and the SRRB with respect to funding this initiative. It is hoped that an agreement can be reached and funding provided to the affected Renewable Resource Councils to provide monitors for these stations.

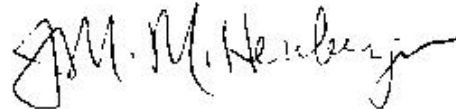
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I am pleased with the co-management work in the Sahtu Region and ENR will continue to work with your Board to manage this valuable resource.

Should you have further concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Steve Hannah, Regional Superintendent, Sahtu Region at 867-587-3501.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Miltenberger  
Minister

c. Mr. Norman Yakeleya, MLA  
Sahtu

Mr. Steve Hannah  
Regional Superintendent- Sahtu Region

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