



JAN 13 2016

Mr. Michael Neyelle
President, Déljne Renewable Resources Council
Chair, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

Dear Mr. Neyelle:

As a follow up to the meeting held with delegates from Sahtu communities and Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated on November 18, 2015, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) recognizes the Déljne Renewable Resources Council (DRRC) as a leader in caribou conservation. I congratulate DRRC and the Community of Déljne on breaking new ground in pursuit of wildlife co-management through collaboration in the design and development of the Déljne Got' ine Plan of Action for Caribou Conservation.

ENR has reviewed the proposal and understands that revisions to the original Déljne proposal were made at a workshop on December 7, 2015. Our understanding is that the changes include:

- a shift towards harvesting bulls;
- the harvest on Bluenose East caribou (BNE) will be self- limited to 150;
- there will be an advisory by DRRC to hunters when the harvest reaches 100 to prevent over harvest.

We look forward to receiving a final revised version of the plan. It is our understanding that this plan sets out the management actions of the community until the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) completes all processes related to a public hearing on conservation actions to manage Bluenose East caribou.

ENR agrees that this collaborative approach is appropriate to meeting the overall objectives of caribou conservation in concert with actions by other partners. The department is pleased to assist the community of Déljne in their desire to move forward with this plan. ENR is prepared to provide continued support with technical expertise, communications and project funding to the SRRB to directly cover some of the costs for this program. Regional staff will be in contact with the SRRB to discuss details of a funding agreement.

.../2



It is our understanding that Délı̄ne has started to implement the plan and that both harvesting and harvest monitoring and reporting took place over the past several weeks. Harvest levels are now over 100 animals and so, in accordance with the plan, a community meeting has been scheduled to discuss shutting down the harvest for this season. Délı̄ne is to be commended for following through with this approach. It shows strong conservation leadership. We also understand however, that the harvest included a high proportion of cows and that harvesters did not use the sample bags that were provided as authorization to be harvesting BNE animals. We encourage the SRRB and the DRRC to stress the importance of harvesting bulls and leaving the cows to their members. Breeding cows are the single most important part of the herd if the herd is to stabilize and recover and they must be protected.

Once again, I thank you for the efforts that have resulted in taking a new path forward to conserve and manage this important wildlife species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernie Campbell', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ernie Campbell
Deputy Minister

- c. Mr. Gary Bohnet, Principal Secretary, Office of the Premier
Chief Lenard Kenny, Délı̄ne First Nation
Mr. Jimmy Dillon, Délı̄ne Renewable Resources Council
Ms Gina Dolphus, Délı̄ne Land Corporation
Ms. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Chair, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Mr. Charles McNeely, Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Mr. David Codzi, Ayoni Keh Land Corporation
Mr. Jeffrey Walker, Regional Superintendent, Sahtu Region
Mr. Patrick Gruben, Chairperson, Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC)
Mr. Steve Baryluk, IGC
Ms. Jody Pellissey, Executive Director, WRRB
Mr. Jonas Lafferty, Interim Chair, WRRB
Ms. Deborah Simmons, Executive Director, SRRB
Ms. Amy Amos, Executive Director, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Mr. Eugene Pascal, Chair, GRRB
Ms. Jody Pellissey, Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife
Management