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Delivered via email

November 19, 2014

**RE: *Sahtú Gathering for the Caribou consensus – Minister’s request for feedback on
Bluenose East caribou harvesting allocations***

Dear Mr. Miltenberger:

On January 27-29, the ʔehdzo Got’ı̄nę Gotsé Nákedı̄ sponsored the *Sahtú Gathering for the Caribou*. The meeting included representatives from the five Sahtú communities, including Renewable Resources Councils, Sahtú Youth Network, and Délı̄negot’ı̄nę community; representatives from other jurisdictions included the NWT Wildlife Management Advisory Council, the Inuvialuit Game Council, Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association, Tı̄chq̄ Nation, and Parks Canada. At that meeting, Assistant Deputy Minister Bird provided an overview of the your request for feedback on the issues to be considered regarding harvest allocations for the Bluenose East caribou.

There was considerable discussion about this request during the Gathering, and the participants requested that we share seven points of consensus as presented to Mr. Bird. These points are listed below, along with our understanding of Mr. Bird’s preliminary response during the meeting.

Consensus of the Sahtú Gathering for the Caribou	Preliminary ENR response
1. Decisions are needed about how to share the caribou.	This is a common starting point for discussion.
2. ENR has invited Aboriginal leaders and wildlife management authorities to a teleconference to discuss Bluenose East caribou harvesting allocations on Monday, February 2; there was strong direction that such important matters require an in-person meeting of the parties.	This message will be conveyed to the Minister.
3. Timelines for discussions and decisions should not be imposed by the Minister; rather, they need to be agreed upon by the parties. Allocations should be arrived at and implemented for the 2015-2016 harvesting season; it is not feasible to accomplish this for the current harvesting season.	This message will be conveyed to the Minister.
4. According to the best available information, the current status of the Bluenose East caribou does not constitute an emergency.	Agreed.
5. The health of the caribou depends on the health of the aboriginal peoples, their ability to “Be Dene” (Dene Ts’ı́ı́).	Did not respond.
6. The full range of actions, as presented by the Aboriginal Caucus at the November 28 meeting with the Minister, and as outlined in the Bluenose Caribou Management Plan, is needed to address declining trends.	Did not respond.
7. Education is needed in the communities to prepare the ground for any decisions that will be made.	ENR is committed to working collaboratively to support development of education and communication materials.

The Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated/Déłı́ne First Nation and ʔehdzo Got’ı́ne Gotsé Nákedı́ will be present at the teleconference on Monday to discuss these points and other contributions from the parties in response to the Minister’s request. The Board thanks you for your department’s participation and valuable contributions to the Gathering for the Caribou.

Máhsı cho,



Paul Latour
Interim Chair



Chief Leonard Kenny

cc. Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Sahtú Secretariat Inc., parties present at the Sahtú Gathering for the Caribou, Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM)