

Fort Good Hope Renewable Resources Council

Box 19 Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0A0

April 10, 2021

Shane Thompson,
Minister Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
VIA EMAIL: Shane_thompson@gov.nt.ca

Dear Minister Thompson:

“Thank you for your letter of March 16, 2021.

As you suggested, we have retained legal counsel to assist in preparing our response.

We continue to support the development of the Dehlá Got’ıne Community Conservation Plan.

The GNWT has promised to identify, prioritize and strengthen key actions to further implement UNDRIP so we expect the GNWT to proceed in the development and implementation of the Dehlá Got’ıne Community Conservation Plan in a way that recognizes this commitment. In particular, we expect compliance with the following provisions of UNDRIP:

1. Article 4, which recognizes the right to autonomy in matters relating to the internal and local affairs of Indigenous peoples;
2. Article 5, which recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic and cultural institutions;
3. Article 29, which recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources and which requires governments to establish and implement assistance programs for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protections, without discrimination; and
4. Article 32, which recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

We note that in the SRRB’s second Colville 2020 PLS report dated March 30, 2021, the SRRB decided to defer recommendation 4.1 and observed that more work is required to clarify the authority and jurisdiction of the Renewable Resources Councils with respect to the management of wildlife harvesting in S/BC/01.

The SRRB has also provided us with a copy of a letter they received from the Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council (“NWRRC”), which was addressed to you with respect to this matter. In that letter, the NWRRC said that they agree with the SRRB that more discussion

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would be useful regarding the extent of the local areas of RRC jurisdiction and authority, and related matters such as enforcement and dispute resolution. They also expressed the view that the discussion should first and foremost occur among the RRCs, guided by enduring Dene laws and time-proven conservation principles of stewardship, respect and reciprocity.

We agree with the SRRB decision to defer recommendation 4.1 because more discussion amongst the affected RRC's is necessary regarding each of their local areas and their jurisdiction over those areas. We also agree with the other comments of the NWRRC.

In the course of the continuing development of the Dehlá Got'Inę Community Conservation Plan, we will consult more fully with participants in Fort Good Hope to ensure that they understand and are in agreement with the way in which the Plan is being developed.

Once those consultations are complete, we will share the results with you."

Thank you,

Daniel Jackson

President

Fort Good Hope Renewable Resource Council

PO Box 19

Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0

Phone: 867-598-2193

Cell: 867-446-4991

Fax: 867-598-2237