

November 4, 2019

Grand Chief George Mackenzie
Tłìchò Government
Box 412, Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0
Email: GeorgeMackenzie@tlicho.com

Via Email
GeorgeMackenzie@tlicho.com

Re: Initial Response to WRRB Reasons for Decision Final Report – Kòk'èetì ekwò (Bathurst Caribou) Herd

Dear Grand Chief Mackenzie:

On January 22, 2019, the Tłìchò Government (TG) and Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Government of Northwest Territories submitted the “*Joint Proposal on Management Actions for the Bathurst Pèkwò (Barren-ground caribou) Herd: 2019 – 2021*” to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) outlining proposed management actions for the Kòk'èetì Ekwò (Bathurst caribou) herd in Wek'èezhìi. Following an initial assessment of the management proposal, the Board determined that a Level 2 review was appropriate. Therefore, the Board established a proceeding and an online public registry on February 4, 2019. Subsequently, the Board provided its Reasons for Decision Report, entitled “*Reasons for Decisions Related to a Joint Proposal for the Management of the Kòk'èetì Ekwò (Bathurst Caribou) Herd*” to TG and ENR on October 4, 2019.

On October 31, 2019, TG provided an initial response to the Board's Kòk'èetì Ekwò Reasons for Decision Report with regards to the proposed adaptive management framework. Based on the Board's Recommendation #17-2019 (Kòk'èetì Ekwò) and Recommendation #9-2019 (Sahtì Ekwò), it is suggested that an adaptive management framework be developed collaboratively with the WRRB taking a lead role in developing the process. A work plan and meeting schedule could be prepared by October 30, 2019.

The Board notes that through the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group (BGCTWG), discussions about the adaptive management framework have begun. Currently, the WRRB is tasked with preparing a ‘strawdog’ version of the framework for review by the BGCTWG by November 29, 2019. The WRRB's Conservation Biologist, Aimee Guile, and caribou expert, Dr. Anne Gunn, along with input from John Nishi, will be meeting the week of November 11, 2019 to complete this work. Once the ‘strawdog’ version of the adaptive management framework is submitted to the BGCTWG, a more specific meeting schedule can be determined.

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The WRRB looks forward to receiving a response to the remainder of the Board's recommendations by November 15, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jpellissey@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,



Joseph Judas
Chair

Cc Dr. Joe Dragon, Deputy Minister, ENR-GNWT
Rita Mueller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, ENR-GNWT
Bruno Croft, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR-GNWT
Laura Duncan, Tłıchǫ Executive Officer, TG
Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault, Director, Culture and Lands Protection, TG
Michael Birlea, Manager, Culture and Lands Protection, TG