



April 3, 2024

Mr. Joe Tetlich, Chair
Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB)
Box 31723
Whitehorse, Yukon YT Y1A 6L3

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Mr. Tetlich,

RE: PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting Information

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation would like to thank the PCMB for all its hard work and the ability of board members and staff to work together on preserving our precious *vadzaih*. We received the document entitled "Porcupine Caribou Management Board Recommendations to the Parties" on March 11, 2024. It is with appreciation that we submit our comments as follows:

Vuntut Gwitchin Government is in full support of the document's "Section B: Recommended Harvest Management Zone and Harvest Management Actions". Specifically, we support the recommendation to remain in the green management zone as outlined in the Harvest Management Plan (pg.20). This entails the following actions:

- Harvest only the amount needed;
- Licensed hunters receive a maximum of two bull tags;
- Shooting will be accurate and wounded animals will be retrieved; and
- Parties will collect rigorous and verifiable harvest data, to be provided for the Annual Harvest Meeting.

In addition, the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation also supports the recommendations in Section D:

1. Continue to use the precautionary principle to manage for the many stressors affecting the herd, including changes in the herd's habitat caused by land use and climate change.
2. Advise the Board of PCH outreach priorities for the development of communication materials.
3. Address identified gaps in harvest data collection.

In particular, Vuntut Gwitchin Government has been taking steps over the previous years to increase the participation in its harvest data collection. We have seen an increase in harvester participation over the last three years, and these efforts will continue in 2024-25. We have had success tying our harvest surveys to our harvest assistance programming, and have also been offering valuable and useful bush prizes (e.g. canvas tents, stoves, skimmers, generators) to those who report. We would like to encourage other parties in their harvest data collection to offer harvesters attractive incentives to participate. This concretely demonstrates we value the knowledge and time of our harvesters.

We would like to take this time to express our appreciation of the efforts the Board has made with the Annual Harvest Meeting and Harvest Management Plan. We concur with the Board's recommendations and look forward to building a strong partnership between the PCMB and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation.

Mahsi',



Chief Pauline Frost
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

Cc: Deana Lemke, Executive Director, PCMB
Marvin Frost Sr., PCMB Member for Vuntut Gwitchin
Jeffrey Peter, PCMB Alternate for Vuntut Gwitchin
Megan Williams, Acting Director of Natural Resources and Heritage, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Jeremy Brammer, Fish and Wildlife Manager, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation