



April 9, 2026

Mr. Joe Tetlich  
Chair  
Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
Box 31723  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 6L3  
Email: [jtetlich31@northwestel.net](mailto:jtetlich31@northwestel.net)

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

**Re: Harvest Management Plan Annual Harvest Meeting – PCMB Recommendations 2026**

Thank you for your letter of March 12, 2026, regarding the 2026 Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's (PCMB) recommendations. We appreciate the comprehensive report, the Summary Table of Implementation Plan Tasks and Actions, and the HMP Milestones Chart. Please accept this letter as Canada's response to the Board's 2026 AHM recommendations.

Canada accepts and supports the Board's recommendation to remain in the Green Zone under the HMP. At the same time, we recognize the substantial decline and support implementing the Green Zone actions with added attentiveness—reinforcing 'take only what is needed,' the two bull tags for licensed hunters, accurate shooting and retrieval, and rigorous, timely harvest reporting. We appreciated the discussion at the meeting this year that if indicators continue to trend downward and the herd passes the Yellow or Orange thresholds, Parties may need to consider additional measures under the HMP and should be ready for that. We are mindful of the implications that any future shift could have for Indigenous harvesters and will work with communities and the Board to plan for clear, transparent communication and supportive approaches, should that be required.

We appreciate that the 2025 photocensus estimated the herd at 143,000 caribou (observed minimum count of 122,974), down from about 218,000 in 2017 and want to commend the dedicated effort that our Yukon and Alaska colleagues made to get that census. We also note the concerning demographic data on cow and calf survival.

At the same time, total harvest across jurisdictions is currently estimated to be within sustainable limits. These signals reinforce the importance of maintaining stewardship and advancing implementation of the HMP.

My staff have reviewed the table of activities and did not find any errors or issues. Ensuring the commission is set up to finalize the allocations under the Native User

Agreement is very important, especially while the herd is in the green zone, and I wish the Parties well with this difficult but critical task.

We appreciate the notice that the next AHM is planned for February 9–10, 2027 in Dawson City, Yukon, and we look forward to continued collaboration. Thank you for the Board's ongoing leadership and collaboration in supporting the stewardship of the Porcupine Caribou herd.

Sincerely,

**Shannon,**  
**Tara**

Digitally signed by  
Shannon, Tara  
Date: 2026.04.09  
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Tara Shannon  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Canadian Wildlife Service

cc. Bruce MacDonald, Regional Director, Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Craig Machtans, Party Representative for Canada at the AHM, Manager, Northern  
Region, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Deana Lemke, Executive Director, Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
([dlemke@pcmb.ca](mailto:dlemke@pcmb.ca))