



August 21, 2020

Carl Sidney, Chair  
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
Box 31104  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5P7

Dear Mr. Sidney,

**Re: Communications between the Board and the Government**

Thank you for your correspondence of July 15, 2020. I am pleased to clarify our intentions and constraints and assure you that I share your vision of working together collaboratively through the mechanisms and processes outlined in the Final Agreements.

The issues that are raised in your letter vary in their nature – some of them are policy related, others relate to harvest management, communications, or ecology. On these technical matters, I refer you to the respective Directors in the Department who are best positioned to work with your staff on each specific issue.

With respect to communications, I encourage you to reach out to Megan Foreman, Director of Communications, to clarify our communications intentions and to discuss opportunities to develop a communications protocol to ensure the Board has notice and input into public communications where appropriate.

With respect to Eurasian Wild Boar, the Board has had the benefit of several briefings from Dr. Mary VanderKop, Chief Veterinary Officer, including at the November 2019 RRC AGW and at the December 13, 2019 Board meeting. She was seeking the input from the Board with respect to proposed new Animal Protection and Control legislation, specifically with respect to the gap that currently exists to address feral populations of domestic species. The presentations clearly identified the limitations of existing Yukon legislation, and these limitations are why changes are being proposed to expand the tools available. Existing laws do not provide the authority to ban these animals. While I appreciate your impatience to have your recommendations addressed, the legislative landscape has not changed since the Board was last briefed. I direct you to Dr. VanderKop if you require more information or clarification.

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With respect to communications and intent regarding sheep management units, I have reviewed the presentation that was made to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board in 2019, and attach it for your reference. It clearly conveys the intent to manage harvest through sheep management units. If the intent still remains unclear to the Board, please follow-up with Ryan Hennings, Fish and Wildlife Director.

As you know, you are always welcome to reach out to the Fish and Wildlife Director, who serves as the liaison for the Department to ensure that you are receiving the technical support that you require in the course of your work.

The Board is a valued partner in wildlife management. I look forward to our future collaborations.

Mahsi,



Pauline Frost  
Minister of Environment