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August 9, 2021

Dän nätthe äda (Chief) Steve Smith  
P.O. Box 5310  
Haines Junction, Yukon  
Y0B 1L0

Dear Chief Smith,

**Re: Bringing Yukon's *Wildlife Act* into conformity with the *Yukon First Nations Final Agreements***

We are writing to you to seek support in facilitating the initiation of a process to review and modernize Yukon's *Wildlife Act* and bring it into conformity with the First Nation Final Agreements.

The Yukon *Wildlife Act* is a key legal instrument that manages human actions to conserve, protect, and maintain healthy wildlife populations. The Board consistently hears feedback from First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, and the general public that the language and restrictions contained within the *Wildlife Act* are antiquated. For example, the Umbrella Final Agreement, individual First Nation Final Agreements, and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Renewable Resources Councils are not mentioned anywhere within the *Wildlife Act*, as it is currently written.

Modernizing the Yukon Wildlife Act is a treaty obligation of Yukon's Government, which remains outstanding after 30 years. Within the First Nation Final Agreements, as per 16.6.13 (Umbrella Final Agreement/U.F.A.), "The Minister shall recommend to the Yukon Legislative Assembly an amendment to the Wildlife Act, R.S.Y. 1986, c. 178 to enable the Council to establish bylaws under the Wildlife Act, R.S.Y. 1986, c. 178 pursuant to 16.6.10.6."

In addition, the *Act* does not recognize section 16.6.10.6 (U.F.A.), which states [each Council], "may establish bylaws under the Wildlife Act, R.S.Y. 1986, c. 178, in accordance with 16.11.0, for the management of Furbearers".

This lack of conformity significantly impedes Fish and Wildlife Management by effectively restricting the Board and the Renewable Resources Councils from implementing and fulfilling our mandates.

Legislative amendments require considerable time and effort, and the Board hopes this letter is the catalyst for modernizing the *Wildlife Act*.

The Board is committed to reconciliation; it must embody the spirit and intent of the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements. Amending the *Wildlife Act* will bring the legislation into conformity with the constitutionally entrenched Final Agreements, thereby honouring this commitment.

We hope that all Yukon First Nations will support this direction by sending letters of support to the Yukon Minister of Environment, further facilitating the reviewing of the *Wildlife Act* for amendments.

I appreciate your consideration, and if you have any questions, please contact our Executive Director, Graham Van Tighem, at (867) 667-5835.

Sincerely,

Carl Sidney, Chair

Cc: Grand Chief Peter Johnston, CYFN