

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**



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February 27, 2018

Christine Cleghorn
Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Environment Yukon
Government of Yukon Box 2703 (V-3A)
Whitehorse, Yukon

Dear Christine Cleghorn,

Re: Next Steps for Draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan

As you are aware based on previous correspondence from 20 February 2018, the Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Plan Working Group recently completed a DRAFT plan entitled "*A Conservation Plan for Grizzly Bears (Ursus arctos) in Yukon*". The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board was able to review this draft plan at our Board Meeting on February 20.

The Board approves of the draft plan as written (consensus of 8 Board Members present at the meeting), and at this time would like to encourage the Department to begin the "soft consultation" of the draft plan with Yukon and transboundary First Nations. We believe this first round of engagement and feedback from the First Nations is an essential way to ensure both the intent of and the language used within the plan are supported, and revised as needed, before the plan is formally submitted to the Board and the Minister of Environment, and then goes on to public review. The Board would like to highlight that the involvement of the Kaska Dena Council and the Liard First Nation in the plan has so far been minimal, and a strong effort should be made to engage these First Nations in this "soft consultation" process.

The Board would like to express our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the working group and support staff who completed this draft plan. We look forward to working with the Department during this plan review process, including providing opportunities for public review by Yukoners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank Thomas', written over a horizontal line.

Frank Thomas
Chair, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Co-Chair, Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Plan Working Group

Cc: Thomas Jung, Co-Chair, Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Plan Working Group