



Revised: March 26, 2018

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
Box 31104  
Whitehorse, Yukon  
Y1A 5P7  
Attn : Frank Thomas – Chair

Re : Department of Environment Mandate Review

Dear Sir:

As per Chapter 16. 7. 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, the Asek Renewable Resource Council is writing to you to request that the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board undertake a comprehensive review of the Department of Environment's mandates, policies and programs as they relate to the management of Fish and Wildlife populations in the Yukon.

We are requesting that you undertake this review based on the following:

- The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board was established under Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement as the primary instrument of Fish and Wildlife management in Yukon.
- Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement dictates that the management and Harvest of Fish and Wildlife and their habitats shall be governed by the principle of Conservation.
- Chapter 1 of the Umbrella Final Agreement defines Conservation as “the management of Fish and Wildlife populations and habitats and the regulation of users to ensure the quality, diversity and Long Term Optimum Productivity of Fish and Wildlife populations, with the primary goal of ensuring a sustainable harvest and its proper utilization”. In addition, Chapter 1 defines Long Term Optimum Productivity as “the productivity required to ensure the long term continuation of a species or population while providing for the needs of Yukon Indian People and other harvesters and non-consumptive users of Fish and Wildlife in the short term”.
- The Department of Environment's Scientific-Based Guidelines for the Management of Moose and Caribou include both Conservation and Optimum Productivity as defined by the Umbrella Final Agreement and acknowledge that “in areas where the demand for hunting opportunities are high, moose and caribou densities may need to be managed at the high end of their natural range of variation to meet the principle of Optimum Productivity”.

- The Department of Environment is responsible for the development, implementation and management of programs designed to meet the objectives of the Umbrella Final Agreement.

It is the opinion of the Asek RRC that the Department of Environment's primary focus for managing wildlife populations in Yukon is on the regulation of users, with minimal effort being placed on species and habitat management in order to meet the objectives of Conservation and Long Term Optimum Productivity as defined by the Umbrella Final Agreement.

The Asek RRC discussed our concerns regarding Environment Yukon's current management practises with all RRCs in attendance at the 2017 Annual General Meeting in Teslin. Upon discussion at the AGM, unanimous support was received for Asek to present our concerns to your Board at the YFWMB quarterly meeting held at Cultus Bay on June 14, 2017.

As a result of the discussions that took place at Cultus Bay, please consider this letter as our formal request for the Board to conduct a comprehensive review of the Department of Environment's mandate, policies and programs as they relate to the Umbrella Final Agreement and the management of Fish and Wildlife populations in Yukon.

Yours truly,

John Trotter  
Co-Chair

Michelle Dawson-Beattie  
Co-Chair